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Out from the Shadows

International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

FINAL REPORT

May 1998

Conference Co-Chairs
The Honourable Landon Pearson
Cherry Kingsley

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project

Final Report

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

May, 1998

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Report Overview

I ask you to set pre-conceived notions about prostitution aside and simply listen to what the youth have to say. When you walk out of here do so with a renewed commitment to helping these youth. If we listen to their stories, hear their pain, and do not do anything about it, then we are all criminals.

Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

We are deeply moved to see you are here. We are full of hope. We are anxious to hear your stories. I am taking on a commitment that I will make sure that there is follow-up to this Summit. We all have different routes to use. Mine has become a political route. I will make use of every aspect of that.

The Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Summit Co-chair

Executive Summary

> When asked to tell a lie about the sex trade, one experiential youth quickly responded: "I'd like to recommend the sex trade as a career and encourage my children to follow in my footsteps."
>
> *From recorder's notes, Declaration in Creative Writing Team*

> [Sexual exploitation of children and youth] is widespread; this is something that happens to thousands and thousands of people. In [the city where I live] there are about 60 to 70 strip clubs with 50 to 100 in each club. There are hundreds of massage parlours. There's about 30 to 40 escort agencies that run anywhere from 10 to 75 girls. I have no idea about the numbers of girls on the street. It is staggering. Almost everyone I know knows someone involved at some time. If someone did statistics they would be astounded... And this is in Canada!
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Toronto, Canada*

This simple lie speaks to the repugnance that most people feel when they imagine their daughter or son, niece or nephew, brother or sister, granddaughter or grandson, entering the commercial sex trade. It is unthinkable, and yet, every day, thousands of children and youth in Canada and all over the world are sexually exploited — sexually abused — by adults who have rationalized this abuse by deciding that these youth are "only" prostitutes, and that somehow they have chosen a life where they must sell their bodies to strangers and trammel upon their own soul. This is the real lie.

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth provided a forum to shed light upon the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The Summit was Article 13 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* come to life: the right to freedom of expression, to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice. The Summit was young people describing the horrors of their life as sexually exploited children and youth: the abuse, the physical violence, the drugs, the alcohol, the mistreatment at the hands of other ordinary people. The Summit was also young people declaring that there was a better way, if only people would listen to their story, accept and respect their experiences, and take their recommendations to heart. The Summit was young people voicing their hopes and dreams for a better life, for the life that should have been theirs.

Between March 7 and 12, 1998, at OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, children and youth who had experienced exploitation in the commercial sex trade, stepped out of the shadows, never to return again. Through visual art, theatre, song and music, poems and stories, they declared their optimism and trust that today people would listen and take action against this violation of human rights. Through the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, the experiential youth delegates to the Summit summarized their beliefs, their stories, and their recommendations in a format that could be distributed, read, and understood, not only by the non-experiential delegates to the Summit (representatives of government, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations), but by people all around the world.

DECLARATION

We, the sexually exploited child and youth delegates gathered in Victoria, Canada, for *Out From the Shadows: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*, declare the following:

We declare that the term child or youth prostitute can no longer be used. These children and youth are sexually exploited and any language or reference to them must reflect this belief.

We declare that the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth is a form of child abuse and slavery.

We declare that all children and youth have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and the threat of abuse, harm or exploitation.

We declare that the commercial exploitation of children and youth must no longer be financially profitable.

We declare that all children and youth have the right to know their rights.

We declare that the issue of child and youth sexual exploitation must be a global priority and nations must not only hold their neighbors accountable but also themselves.

We declare that governments are obligated to create laws which reflect the principle of zero tolerance of all forms of abuse and exploitation of children and youth.

Background

The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth was the second phase of the larger OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project. This project originated with the Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Cherry Kingsley, a young person with experience as a sexually exploited child and youth. In August of 1996, Senator Pearson and Ms. Kingsley attended the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, Sweden. Both shared the frustration that so few youth who had experienced sexual exploitation themselves were included. Leading Canada's delegation to the Congress was the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs. In his address to the Congress he stated the need to involve young people in the development of solutions, initiatives and strategies which address the issues of commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. Senator Pearson concurred and suggested young people with experience as sexually exploited children and youth be given the chance to develop their own declaration and agenda for action to complement the work being done at the Congress and by the formal mechanisms established by the United Nations, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. It was felt that the experience of the young people could shed light on the contributing factors that make children and youth vulnerable to exploitation, the associated risks, the profiles of both the procurers and the pimps, and the services and supports necessary for exiting.[1]

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[1] This information about the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is derived from the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, Executive Summary, from the office of the Honourable Landon Pearson. This Executive Summary can be found on Senator Pearson's web page at sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/

Phase 1 INTO THE SHADOWS: The Canadian and International Consultations

Senator Pearson and Ms. Kingsley felt that a summit of experiential youth could assist in filling the huge gap in knowledge that has for so long prevented the development of effective initiatives and strategies. The youth attending the summit would represent a cross section of sexually exploited children and youth in North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. Thus, Phase One of the Project, consisted of not merely inviting youth from various countries to a Summit, but consisted of painstaking and caring organization and implementation of consultation groups in Canada and in the United States (New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles), Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. The aim of these consultations, which took place between October 1997 and January 1998, was to:

- listen to the voices of the children and youth who were suffering the exploitation of the commercial sex trade
- record and compare their life experiences that may have contributed to increasing their vulnerability to sexual exploitation
- record their recommendations for solving issues in five theme areas: Prevention, Risk Management and Harm Reduction, Emergency and Crisis Situations, Healing and Connecting, and Advocacy and Public Attitudes
- provide input to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.

The recurring themes in the life experiences of the consultation participants were many. In Canada, while poverty and abuse both contributed to making children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, in the Caribbean and South American countries, poverty was the overwhelming factor that increased the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation by the commercial sex trade. Almost all the children and youth participating in the international consultations reported a history of abject poverty. Children and youth faced with supporting their families due to a crisis situation, but possessing little or no marketable skills, have no choice but to turn to work in the commercial sex trade in order to earn money to buy basic necessities.

The consultation groups provided input to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth in two ways:

1. Each group sent two representatives and one support person to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The job of each representative was vital: to ensure that the voices of those left behind were heard, loudly and clearly.
2. -The stories, common life experiences and themes, issues and recommendations were recorded in detailed case histories, in a Canadian Regional Consultation Report, and in an International Summary Report of the international consultations. These reports were shared with experiential and non-experiential delegates to the Summit.

Phase 2 OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

Part 1: Finding Voice

The International Summit took place over five, very intense days. The format of the Summit, like its delegates, was unique: participation in the first three days of the Summit was restricted to youth who had experienced the sexual exploitation of the commercial sex trade, hence the term 'experiential' youth. The participation of the various resource and support people invited to assist the youth was severely limited. During these three days, youth were given the time and space needed to create a sense of community and a feeling of solidarity amongst themselves. By the time the non-experiential delegates arrived, the youth had a clear sense of what they wanted to communicate.

In addition, the format was flexible; at no time were the delegates held to a process that did not work for them. If the participation of experiential youth was hindered, the youth changed the format until they found one that worked.

During this time, the experiential delegates worked very hard, and in some cases, all night, to prepare youth declarations. Youth declarations give voice to the life experiences, issues, hopes, dreams, and recommendations of children and youth exploited by the commercial sex trade in formats that can be understood by the wider world community.

Youth could choose from five media in which to make their declaration: visual arts, music, theatre, creative writing, and a more traditional written declaration and agenda for action. The youth used the five theme areas from the regional consultations to guide their declarations. During the Summit, the themes were revised based on the experiences of the delegates. For example, experiential delegates advised that the concept of 'risk management' was not realistic. What should be done is to prevent children and youth from being at risk of sexual exploitation in the first place.

A prime example of the flexibility inherent in the Summit was the way in which the experiential youth team responsible for drafting the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action* achieved their task. The process to create the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* began with a sample draft of a written declaration. The group set about the task of reworking this draft, with input from the resource people assigned to the team. Within an hour it was apparent that this process was not going to work; operating within a framework of a previously prepared draft declaration suppressed fresh ideas, and the voices of the resource people were becoming more predominate than the youths'. The draft was quickly set aside, the resource people were moved to an outer circle, and the inner circle of experiential youth told their stories to each other without interruption. From these stories of abuse and survival emerged the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* that is now being heard around the world.

Part 2: Voices from the Shadows

On days four and five of the Summit several forums took place which gave non-experiential delegates the opportunity to interact with the youth delegates, to experience the presentations of the youth declarations, and to make commitments for change. In Forum 2, the *Summit Forum Workshops*, non-experiential delegates heard, saw, touched, and felt the declarations of the youth. Then, breaking into workshop groups, experiential and non-experiential delegates worked together to develop visions and action plans based on the framework of the five theme areas and on what they had learned from the youth declarations.

During Part 2 of the Summit, three other forums took place where experiential youth presented their declarations to a wider audience:

Forum 3, *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum
Forum 4, *Into the Light*: The Public Forum
Forum 5, *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum.

In Forum 3 *Merging Voices*, the theme of sexual exploitation of youth in British Columbia, Canada was discussed with mainstream youth, experiential youth, community organizations, and municipal and provincial government representatives. The focus of the discussions was on developing strategies to mobilize youth in their own communities.

Forum 4 *Into the Light:* The Public Forum, involved the experiential youth presenting their declarations to the public and included an open forum and a panel discussion with experiential and non-experiential delegates to the Summit.

In Forum 5 *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum, the experiential youth team responsible for creating the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* presented the *Declaration* to elected and non-elected representatives of Canadian federal and provincial governments. During this forum, many visions and action plans were voiced on behalf of the various levels of Canadian government. The Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women, stated that she would take on the responsibility herself, in the name of, and on behalf of, the Government of Canada, to ensure that the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* was heard.

Phase 3 INTO THE LIGHT: Commitments for Change

The visions for change and action plans developed in the forums have resulted in some concrete commitments from the delegates representing various levels of Canadian and international governments, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations, both Canadian and international. These commitments, recorded in the final section of this report, represent the tasks ahead in Phase 3 of the Sexually Exploited Youth Project. Already some promises are coming to fruition.

In keeping with her commitment to share the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* with as many people, in as many countries, as possible, the Honourable Landon Pearson has incorporated it into her extensive and informative web site on Child Rights. This site is expressly designed so that children will find information on children's rights easily accessible. The written *Declaration and Agenda for Action* is on the web site in French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. As well there are many documents on the web site in the four languages, which provide background on the Sexually Exploited Youth Project and the Summit.

As promised, Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, presented the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* to the 54th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and gave a summary of the Summit. In her presentation she made the following recommendations:

1. That the title of her mandate be changed to Special Rapporteur on Child Victims of Trafficking and/or Commercial Sexual Exploitation, to reflect the *Declaration's* objection to the use of the term child prostitution.
2. That the UN take the lead in upgrading in its order of priority, matters concerning children and in mainstreaming in its activities measures for their protection.
3. That improved mechanisms for better coordination within the different departments and agencies of the UN family be institutionalized.

A Victoria-based committee has been assigned the task of disseminating information from the Summit, including the youth declarations in all their forms, this final report, the Summit proceedings, and other communication and education tools including videos, a compact disk, and a web site.

The Response to the World Congress

In 1996, the World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children called for more knowledge about the contributing factors that make children and youth vulnerable to exploitation, the associated risks, the profiles of both the procurers and the pimps, and the services and supports necessary for exiting. The Sexually Exploited Youth Project has provided that knowledge. The following quotes from delegates, both experiential and non-experiential, to OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, and from the Canadian and international consultations, are unequivocal responses to the request of the Congress.

> Young people in the sex trade are not prostitutes. They are victims of sexual abuse. We have to stop calling them prostitutes.
>
> *Male experiential delegate, Calgary, Canada*

> I started because of the economic situation. I had no money for my babies. I looked for a regular job as a maid but I couldn't find one and I needed money for my baby. I don't feel good about it but this is my work. It is the only way we have to survive.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, South America*

> I would like help with some capital so I can start a clothing store or some business. About maybe $3000 because in my country that is a fortune. I need enough money to open the store and help my children. I would be the happiest woman in the world. To have my own store. So, I would not have to work at night anymore. That is my dream.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Bolivia*

Many, many people profit from the sale of children, including the restaurants, the hotels, the taxis, the tourist industry, the bars and the nightclubs. This is a huge industry. We have to stop them profiting off our children.

Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

Media should be actual partners in advocacy for protection of children. If that were the only thing that came out of this Summit it would be a success.

Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Pornography

I'd like people to treat us like human beings. We're not sluts. I want people to understand that it's an economic situation that's put us where we are.

Female international consultation participant, Haiti

If you see them only as victims, you have missed the point. These young people could be leaders.

Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth and former experiential youth

Pay attention to children who are crying out. When something happens in their home and no one listens, they end up on the street.

Female experiential delegate, Winnipeg, Canada

Please think not only of the children of Canada. Think that there are other people waiting for your help in Latin America.

Female experiential delegate, Bolivia

We need a house. It doesn't have to be big. A small house where girls who have been sexually abused or beaten can come to this house and spend the time that they need to spend there. To give them responsibilities in the house, where there will be psychological help and other resources...they need the confidence that they can achieve something. If you believe, then with that strength, you can move mountains. With that strength, the girls have to increase their self-worth. The girls who start in the sex trade have no self-esteem. They need a lot of love. Let's see if we can do it.

Female experiential delegate, Chile

Children and youth are used for sex in public washrooms, in the back of stores, in parks, in massage parlours, in hotel rooms, in night-clubs, in bars, in back alleys, at social functions and as part of providing a 'service' to out of town business customers. Experiential delegates in the consultations talked about a lawyer that provides girls to out-of-town clients, and a knick knack store owner that kept a few girls in the back room 'for sale.'

Observations from the Canadian and International Consultations

Unlike the stereotype that is perpetuated by media, pimps are not restricted to the flashily dressed smooth-talking con man that walks the street seducing children and youth into the trade. Pimps include businessmen who provide girls for sexual services to clients, storeowners who exploit children in the back of their stores, and family members and boyfriends who live off of their girlfriends.

Observations from the Canadian and International Consultations

If you choose to read the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* and not act, not accept responsibility, you will be held accountable — because, after our light has shone so bright, we refuse to be returned to the shadows.

Male experiential delegate, Calgary, Canada

The problem is that after [the Summit] I go back to the same situation.

Female experiential delegate, Peru

Acknowledgements

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth was the vision of Ms. Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair and the Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Summit Co-chair. Although they had met briefly before, Ms. Kingsley and the Senator first shared their vision for change when they met again in Sweden at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. There, disappointed at the lack of experiential youth at the Congress, they resolved to return to Canada and work together to bring the voice of sexually exploited youth out from the shadows. Their partnership and unshakeable belief in the truth of what they are doing is the foundation upon which OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project is built.

In the two years during which they worked toward their goal, Ms. Kingsley and the Senator in turn, motivated, guided, followed, cajoled and listened to the other. During the course of the Summit, they often referred to the other affectionately as their 'tor'mentor. Unbeknownst to them they were also 'tor'mentors for the hundreds of individuals representing dozens of organizations both nationally and internationally who shared their vision and worked so hard toward giving voice to sexually exploited youth.

The Summit Planning Committee thanks our endorsers, sponsors, partners and supporters for their tremendous amount of work and dedication that brought the Summit from vision to full implementation.

In addition to the endorsers, sponsors, partners and supporters listed on the following page, we would also like to especially thank the following individuals whose tireless commitment to bringing sexually exploited youth out from the shadows is largely responsible for the Summit:

- Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair and former experiential youth
- Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada and Summit Co-chair

- Yolande Arsenault, Administrative Assistant to the Honourable Landon Pearson
- Liza Goulet, Researcher and Policy Analyst to the Honourable Landon Pearson
- Sandra Griffin, A/Team Leader, Child Care Team, Regional Support Division, Ministry for Children and Families, Government of British Columbia
- Bertil Lindblad, Chief, Child Protection Section, UNICEF, New York
- Mary O'Rourke, Program Director, Conference Management, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria
- Jody Paterson, Editorial Page Editor, Victoria Times Colonist
- Jannit Rabinovich, Project Manager, OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project and PEERS
- Tathra Street, Project Assistant, OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, and PEERS

Additionally, OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth was **endorsed** by:

- ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)
- UNICEF, N.Y.: Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, and Stephen Lewis, Deputy Executive Director.

Sponsors

- Ombudsman, Province of British Columbia
- PEERS (Prostitute Empowerment and Education Resource Society)
- School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria

Canadian Partners

- Child Welfare League of Canada
- Naomi Centre for Women, St. John's, NF
- OXFAM Quebec
- Passages (Montreal)
- Pueblito Canada
- Save the Children Canada
- Street Kids International

International Partners

- ACENDE (Brazil)
- Casa alianza (Honduras)
- CODENI (Peru)
- Covenant House, New York
- Child Welfare League of America
- CIES (Bolivia)
- Integracion Juvenil (Dominican Republic)
- Ouvidor geral do Estado (Brazil)
- RAICES (Chile)
- Youth Care (Seattle)

Supporters

- Canadian Labour Congress
- City of Victoria
- Federation of Child and Family Services of BC
- Laidlaw Foundation
- Public Health Association of British Columbia
- Public Service Alliance of Canada
- UNICEF, N.Y.
- United Church of Canada
- University of Victoria

The Government of Canada

- Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Health Canada
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Justice Canada
- Office of the Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Solicitor General Canada
- Status of Women Canada

The Province of British Columbia

- Ministry of Attorney General
- Ministry for Children and Families

The Summit would not have been possible without the caring support and hard work of the many volunteers, facilitators, and resource people who assisted before, during, and after the Summit. The names of these dedicated people are listed in Appendix 5.

Finally, the members of the Summit Planning Committee can congratulate themselves for a successful Summit, and prepare themselves for the hard work ahead. The resounding voice of the sexually exploited children and youth was heard clearly at the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. It must continue to be heard around the world, and the recommendations in the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* must be given serious consideration at all levels. Sexually exploited children and youth are out from the shadows; the challenge now is to continue spreading the light.

The names of the Summit Planning Committee can be found in Appendix 5.

Introduction

> Show me a community that says it has no sexual exploitation of children, and I'll show you a community that doesn't let its children speak.
>
> *Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*

The commercial sex trade is exploiting young people at an ever-increasing rate, perpetuating cycles of violence, shame, disease, and death in the lives of countless vulnerable and marginalized youth. Sexually exploited children and youth are forced to struggle for survival in the shadows of society. Most become painfully disconnected from family, community, culture, and hope.

The world community is at last beginning to recognize the need for a concerted and cooperative mobilization to eliminate sexual crimes perpetrated against vulnerable children and youth. Global consensus has been reached that responsibility for the criminal activity of child prostitution rests squarely with the adults who profit or procure, not with the children themselves. Instead of being dismissed as "disposable" commodities or punished as criminals responsible for their own exploitation, children who experience sexual abuse and exploitation are beginning to be defined, accurately, as innocent victims.

Yet victims have no power, no influence, no voice. In contrast to this pervasive silence, the Sexually Exploited Youth Project provided opportunities for young people who have been exploited by the sex trade to come forward. By giving voice to their experiences, their pain, and their hopes for tomorrow, these marginalized youth have challenged communities and nations to listen to their stories, to consider their recommendations, and to create a healthier and safer future for the children who follow. As we work together to eliminate this grievous form of national and international forced child labour, we may discover that it is the children themselves who can show the way.

In Winnipeg in 1993, I was driving along with officials and saw some young people hanging around a parking lot at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, and I said "why aren't those kids in school?" There was silence in the car, then one person said that these young people were prostitutes. I asked "How old are they?" and they answered "Probably 12 and 13 years old and usually we get them younger." I said "That's not prostitution, that is the sexual exploitation of children; it's child abuse and it has to stop."

Ethel Blondin-Andrew,
Secretary of State
(Children and Youth)
Government of Canada

World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

> The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a global phenomenon pervading both developing and developed countries, although its typology and extent vary per country. It is both national and transnational in dimension, both generational and intergenerational in impact.
>
> *Prof. Vtit Muntarbhorn, Rapporteur-General, World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden, August, 1996*

The first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children took place in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 1996. In attendance were representatives from 125 countries, including national governments, international non-governmental agencies, enforcement agencies, international media, and corporate and social service representatives. The five-day event was co-sponsored by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism[2]), UNICEF, the NGO Committee for the Rights of the Child and the Government of Sweden. The framework of the discussions was the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

The purpose of the World Congress was to develop an international declaration and agenda for action to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. UNICEF invited a young Canadian woman, Ms. Cherry Kingsley, to attend the Congress, where she took an active role in the International Human Values Panel. UNICEF sponsored Ms. Kingsley because of her childhood experience in the commercial sex trade, and because of the impact of her subsequent work as an advocate and consultant on issues affecting marginalized youth.

When Ms. Kingsley became aware that only fifteen youth, representing eight of the 125 participating countries, had been included in the 1,300 Congress delegates — and that of these youth, only three had personal experience in the sex trade — she publicly voiced her concern about the inadequate representation of youth experienced in the very issues that the Congress had been convened to address. The formal address by the Canadian government delegation, presented by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, also highlighted the need for youth involvement and participation in all strategies arising from the World Congress.

It was during the Congress that OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project was first conceived in discussions between the Honourable Landon Pearson, a member of the Canadian government delegation, and Ms. Kingsley. Senator Pearson and Ms. Kingsley co-chaired the International Summit of

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[2] ECPAT's name was subsequently changed to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes

Sexually Exploited Youth, the culminating event of OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project, held in Victoria, Canada, in March 1998.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project is:

- to provide a way for children and youth with personal experience of commercial sexual exploitation to give voice to their experiences, their needs, and their recommendations for change, and
- to ensure that their voices are heard and considered by the individuals and organizations who are committed to eliminating the global sexual exploitation of children.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* reaffirms that children's rights require special protection. It calls for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security. Specifically, Article 34 declares:

> States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

There are certain Articles within the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* that speak to the need to give children and youth a voice and the right to be heard. OUT OF THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project breathes life into these articles of the Convention. It is the embodiment of the right of children and youth to have their voices heard.

Article 12 and Article 13 both speak directly to the right of children to a voice, not just orally, but to express themselves in the medium of their choice. And, it is this right that is the very cornerstone of OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project.

> ***Article 12***
>
> States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
>
> ***Article 13***
>
> The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.

Defining a Youth Declaration

Throughout this document there are references to youth declarations, declarations in various media, and agendas for action. The purpose of The Sexually Exploited Youth Project, and more specifically the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, was to give voice to the life experiences, issues, hopes, dreams, and recommendations of children and youth exploited by the commercial sex trade. A method of doing so in a way to which the wider international government audience could relate, was to issue a youth declaration and agenda for action, much in the way that a declaration was created at the Stockholm Congress in 1996.

However, in keeping with Article 13 of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which states the child's right to imparting information and ideas either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of the child's choice, youth delegates to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth produced their declarations in a number of media, including visual art, music, theatre, and creative writing. As well, a team of experiential youth delegates at the Summit created a more 'traditional' *Declaration and Agenda for Action* for presentation and distribution at the Summit. This *Declaration* contains declarative statements and an *Agenda for Action* which provides concise recommendations.

However, it is a declaration with a difference. The youth used an innovative process for the development of their *Declaration* that based their declaration statements directly on their own experiences. They created a format which embedded direct quotes about the youths' life experiences in the *Agenda for Action* text, and which stated the youths' beliefs upon which their recommendations were based.

They need the confidence that they can achieve something. If you believe, then with that strength, you can move mountains. The girls who start in the sex trade have no self-esteem. They need a lot of love. Let's see if we can do it.

Female experiential delegate, Chile

Organization of this Report

This report is divided into three sections, which mirror the three phases of the Project. The phases are outlined briefly below.

Phase 1 INTO THE SHADOWS: The Canadian and International Consultations

Section A of the report provides an overview of the consultations that took place during the first phase of the Project. The INTO THE SHADOWS consultations were held in nine cities in Canada, three cities in the United States, and seven cities in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Rapporteurs recorded participants' descriptions of their experiences in the commercial sex trade and their responses to consultation group theme questions. Subsequent to the consultations, two experiential delegates from each consultation group were selected to attend as delegates to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in March 1998. As extensive documentation already exists on the consultations, this overview is brief and provides information useful in understanding the structure and topics of the Summit.

> I need your help. I need you to listen to me. I grew up in such a messy way, so many changes. I would like some guidance. I would like to help others but I need help as well.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Peru*

Phase 2 OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

Section B provides a detailed account of Phase 2 of the Project, the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. For five days in March 1998, experiential delegates and support people met at the Summit to give voice to their experiences, issues, and recommendations by creating youth declarations in a variety of media. The reports from the consultations provided a common background and were a resource for the delegates, who then added more of their personal stories and valuable experience to the creation of the youth declarations.

During the first three days of the Summit, 37 experiential delegates and 17 support people had the opportunity to participate in teams that created declarations using the media of theatre, music, visual arts, and creative writing, or in the team that worked directly on the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.*

In the final two days of the Summit, Voices From the Shadows, a number of forums took place at which the youth made their declarations: a theatrical presentation, music, visual art, readings of stories and poems. The declarations all reflected their life experiences and hopes for the future. In addition, the experiential youth delegates presented the formal written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* The representatives of government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the public in attendance had an opportunity to work with the experiential delegates to take the recommendations embodied in the declarations and develop commitments to change.

Phase 3 INTO THE LIGHT: Commitments for Change

In Section C, the work to be done in Phase 3 of the Project is identified, the commitments for action made at the Summit are listed, and the communication strategies and education tools resulting from the Summit are outlined. These will include consultation reports, consultation case histories, the Summit proceedings, and a representation of the youth declarations (including as many forms as possible) and the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* The communication and education tools will be distributed to governments of the countries represented as well as to the UN, UNICEF, the Children's Institute of the Organization of American States, ECPAT, and other international organizations and agencies and targeted groups (e.g. tourism, boards of trade).

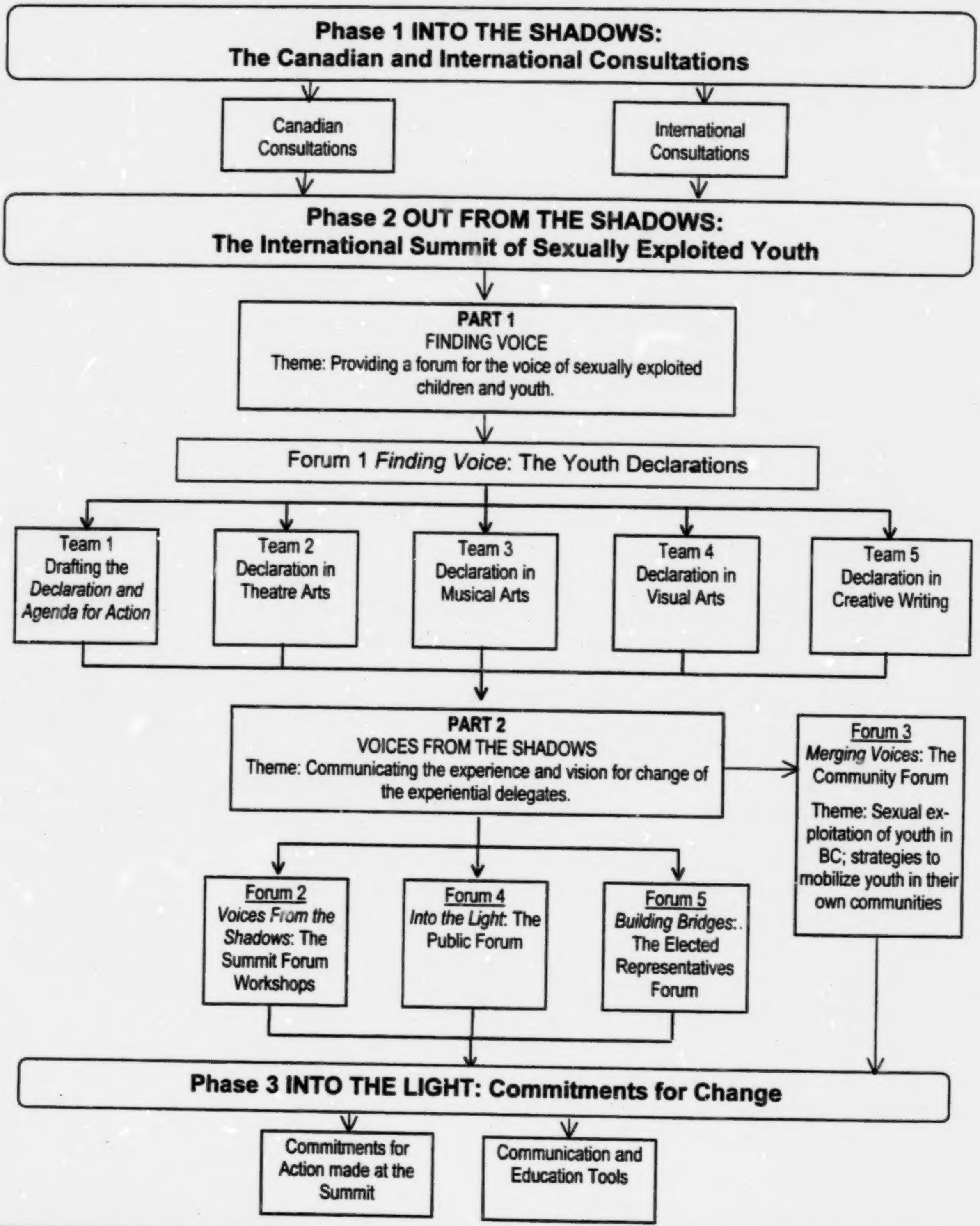
Parents will love and respect their children and prostitution will not even be an option. [I would] walk down the street and not see or hear any children there.

Male and Female experiential delegates, Creative Writing Declaration Team, when asked to imagine change and what the world would be like if they woke up one morning and life was perfect.

The sections of this report and their relationship to the Project Phases are summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project


Phase 1 INTO THE SHADOWS:
The Canadian and International Consultations
Canadian Consultations
International Consultations
Phase 2 OUT FROM THE SHADOWS:
The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth
PART 1
FINDING VOICE
Theme: Providing a forum for the voice of sexually exploited children and youth.
Forum 1 *Finding Voice*: The Youth Declarations
Team 1 Drafting the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*
Team 2 Declaration in Theatre Arts
Team 3 Declaration in Musical Arts
Team 4 Declaration in Visual Arts
Team 5 Declaration in Creative Writing
PART 2
VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS
Theme: Communicating the experience and vision for change of the experiential delegates.
Forum 3 *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum
Theme: Sexual exploitation of youth in BC; strategies to mobilize youth in their own communities
Forum 2 *Voices From the Shadows*: The Summit Forum Workshops
Forum 4 *Into the Light*: The Public Forum
Forum 5 *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum
Phase 3 INTO THE LIGHT: Commitments for Change
Commitments for Action made at the Summit
Communication and Education Tools

The Cycle of Sexual Exploitation

> Healing is one of the most important themes. It starts from the healing and moves into self-advocacy, and then prevention, and then into intervention. It's the start and finish of a circle.
>
> *Experiential Male Delegate, Calgary, Canada*

Throughout the Project, five themes were used to facilitate discussion of issues and formulate recommendations:

1. Prevention
2. Risk Management and Harm Reduction
3. Emergency and Crisis Situations
4. Healing and Connecting, and
5. Advocacy and Public Attitudes.

These themes are based upon the themes of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* as they apply to sexually exploited children and youth.

A young male with experience as a sexually exploited child, who was a delegate to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth and a member of the workshop team that formulated the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, succinctly described the five themes as fitting into a cycle of exploitation. If sexual exploitation of a child or youth cannot be **prevented**, then care must be taken to **reduce harm** and to care for the individual in **emergency** and **crisis situations**. Recognizing that a crisis situation is a time when the individual at risk is open to **exiting** the commercial sex trade, immediate assistance must be provided to facilitate the process of exiting. Once the individual has exited the trade, the long process of **healing and connecting** to society begins, recognizing that the person may never have been connected to the society that exploited them.

> My healing started when I started giving back and started working as a peer. I had to find the energy to give back and heal. I think just talking about it, because men don't talk, is an efficient healing process.
>
> *Male experiential delegate, Montreal, Canada*

An integral part of healing and connecting is to allow that person to assist other sexually exploited children and youth at every step

No matter what, you are at risk. No matter what, prostitution is a big risk. In order to have alternatives, in order to lower risk for sex workers, [there] need to be institutions for free courses. e.g. hairdressing, sewing. [They] must be free and must be just for sex traders — for women.

Female experiential delegate, Bolivia

of the cycle, most importantly assisting in the prevention of entry into the commercial sex trade.

Affecting every step of this cycle is the prevailing public attitude towards sexually exploited children and youth. Judgmental and ignorant public attitudes are an obstacle in attempts to provide resources and services for youth in the sex trade, in the facilitation of exiting, and in the process of healing and connecting.

The diagram in Figure 2 is based upon the cycle as described by the Summit delegate. You will immediately note that one of the themes appears to be missing. In Forum 1, experiential delegates to the Summit unanimously decided that the concept of **risk management** in the context of their daily experiences was "ridiculous" at best. Risks, such as physical abuse, illness and disease, overuse of drugs and alcohol, and even death, cannot be managed; they should be eradicated. What should be done is to prevent children and youth from being at risk of sexual exploitation in the first place.

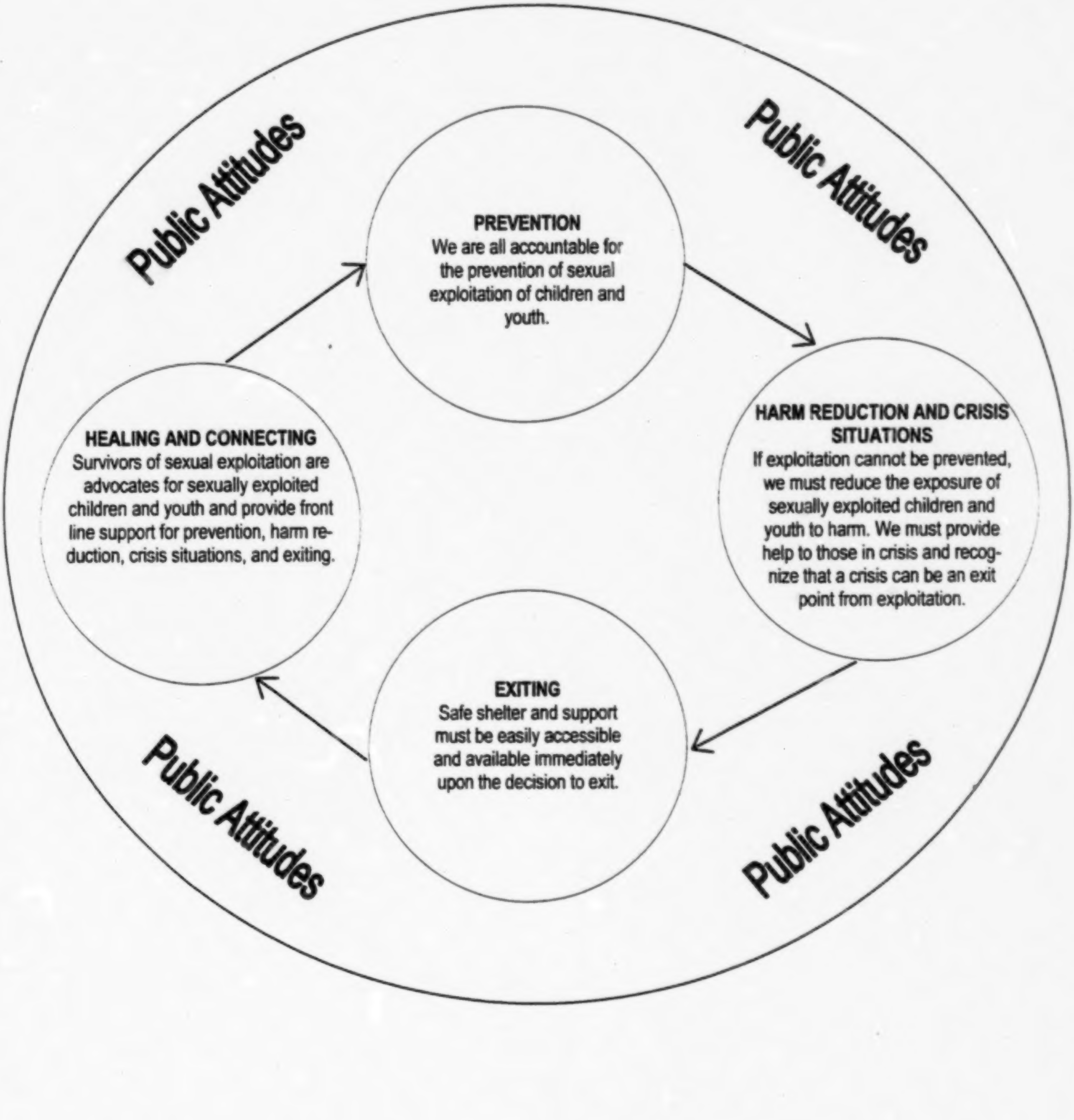
Failing prevention, the next step is to assist in crisis situations and to attempt to reduce the harm experienced during crises and emergencies. Thus, the delegates decided to eliminate the words "risk management" from the second theme.

Finally, delegates to Forum 2, *Voices From The Shadows*: The Summit Forum Workshops, went one step further. The individuals charged with developing visions and actions for the themes of Risk Management and Harm Reduction, and Emergency and Crisis Situations combined their teams, realizing that both themes really only addressed Emergency Situations.

We talked at great length about what [risk management] means... it sounds like keeping people alive. When I think of prostitution, regardless of where it is (street, apartment, brothel) I have a hard time understanding if [risk management] is even possible. People are at risk. I don't think risk management can exist. The bottom line is they are at risk. What we have talked about here is harm reduction: physical well being, emotional well being.

Male experiential delegate, Calgary, Canada

Figure 2: Cycle of Sexual Exploitation



PREVENTION
We are all accountable for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth.

HARM REDUCTION AND CRISIS SITUATIONS
If exploitation cannot be prevented, we must reduce the exposure of sexually exploited children and youth to harm. We must provide help to those in crisis and recognize that a crisis can be an exit point from exploitation.

EXITING
Safe shelter and support must be easily accessible and available immediately upon the decision to exit.

HEALING AND CONNECTING
Survivors of sexual exploitation are advocates for sexually exploited children and youth and provide front line support for prevention, harm reduction, crisis situations, and exiting.

Phase 1 INTO THE SHADOWS

The Canadian and International Consultations

A year and a half ago I went to live with my grandmother. I have a brother who is not going to school and one day he came to live with us. Sometimes we have nothing to eat because my grandmother doesn't work and she doesn't have anything to support us with. I took to the streets so that we wouldn't be hungry. Many people treat me badly. The neighbours call me names and they don't know how I feel. This is a hard life. Many men have abused me and I don't have much experience.

Dominican Republic: female, 13 years old, started prostitution at age 11, consultation participant.

Introduction

The first phase of The Sexually Exploited Youth Project was a consultation process with children and youth who had experienced the exploitation of the commercial sex trade. Consultations were held in nine cities across Canada, three cities across the United States, and seven cities across six South American, Central American, and Caribbean countries. The primary intent of the INTO THE SHADOWS Canadian and international consultations was to provide a safe, respectful, and confidential forum for recording the voices of children and youth who have personal experience of the commercial sex trade. Canadian survivors of child sexual exploitation designed the consultation process.

Consultation participants were between 14 to 25 years of age, and had six months or more of experience in the commercial sex trade. In the international consultations, the host sponsoring agency played a key support role in helping the facilitator(s) to contact potential focus group participants. In Canada, potential participants were contacted on the street, at needle exchanges, in youth shelters and through support services such as youth-at-risk groups. Participation in the consultation groups was on the basis of personal choice.

All you have to share, all the suffering will be transformed to help others and then the world will listen.

Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Summit Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

The group discussions were facilitated, usually by someone with personal experience of child sexual exploitation and who had been successful in exiting the trade. By sharing her or his personal story with focus group participants, the facilitator built trust and set the tone for honest and frank discussion. Groups worked well with a co-facilitator who looked after individual needs while the facilitator guided the group process. A rapporteur recorded participants' descriptions of their experiences in the commercial sex trade and their responses to consultation group theme questions.

The process for selecting participants and for facilitating the consultation group is recorded in the *Focus Group Guidebook*, (January 1998), written by Cherry Kingsley, Megan Lewis, and Lynette Halldorson Jackson.

To bring the voices of all the youth involved in the consultations, two people from each consultation group were selected to be group representatives at OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.

Canadian Consultations

In the Canadian component, ten consultation meetings were held between September and December 1997 in nine cities across Canada: St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria. During the consultations, facilitators and recorders heard the testimony of over 70 youth that have experienced the child abuse and sexual exploitation of prostitution.

The Canadian consultations included the experiences of sexually exploited children and youth involved in escort services, massage parlours, and other venues of prostitution. Street sex trade workers represent only the tip of the iceberg of sexually exploited youth.

The experiences of the sexually exploited youth are reflected in the Canadian consultation report, *Voices from the Shadows: Canadian Children and Youth Speak Out About Their Lives as Street Sex Trade Workers*, written by consultation rapporteur Lynette Halldorson Jackson (January, 1998).

International Consultations

From October, 1997 through January, 1998, international consultations were held in Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Peru and Brazil. There were two consultation locations in each of the six countries for a total of twelve consultations. There was one consultation in each of three cities in the United States: Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York. Over 140 youth, both females and males, who had experienced the child abuse and sexual exploitation of street-level or brothel prostitution, participated in the international consultations. The participants' descriptions of their experiences in the commercial sex trade and their responses to consultation theme questions are included in the reports *Out From the Shadows, Living in the Open: Regional Consultation Reports* (International Regional Report, January, 1998) and *International Voices From the Shadows: Children and Youth of the Americas Speak Out About Their Lives as Street Sex Trade Workers* (International Summary, February, 1998, Draft*)*, also written by Lynette Halldorson Jackson.

Background on Participants

The young people who participated in these consultations demonstrated courage, integrity and a willingness to be deeply vulnerable in coming out from the shadows to share both their pain and their hopes for a better tomorrow.

Canadian Participants

Over 70 youth with a minimum of six months direct experience in the sex trade as children or youth participated in the Canadian consultations. While they may not necessarily live off prostitution today, their livelihood is or has been derived through selling their bodies in Canadian cities. Many of them entered the sex trade between the ages of 11 and 14 after having already endured "unpaid" sexual abuse for years. Some remember being bribed or paid for sex when they were young children; one consultation participant attested that she and the children she grew up with were routinely used for sex "as soon as we could crawl."

Pay attention to children who are crying out. When something happens in their home and no one listens, then they end up on the street.

Female experiential delegate, Winnipeg, Canada

International Participants

Similarly, the stories of the 140 participants of the international consultations reflect the sexual abuse suffered as young children. An overriding common theme of participants from the Caribbean, Central, and South America is, however, the abject poverty suffered. Economic hardship often forces children into prostitution in order to supply such basic needs as food and shelter for family members as well as themselves.

I give my children all my love. Everything I give to them because I know that I am sacrificing myself for them.

Female experiential delegate, Bolivia

Canadian and International Consultation Reports

The consultation reports present the experiences and insights of the youth in their own words, through direct quotations wherever possible. They give voice to both the participants' life experiences and their recommendations for addressing the critical issues faced by exploited children and youth on a daily basis. Their stories are shocking, horrifying, sorrowful, and yet full of hope. Their recommendations are to the point, common sense and with the depth that only a lifetime of experience with the issues at hand can bring.

Through the consultation reports, delegates to OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth were able to access the experiences and recommendations of the over 210 youth who spoke during the consultations. Not all participants in the consultations could be included in the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. However, the reports brought the force of the voices of those who could not attend to the Summit, thus ensuring their voices would not remain in the shadows.

The Canadian consultation report and the International Summary both contain the recurring themes derived from testimony of the youth participants in the consultations and the recommendations of these youth in response to the consultation process issues of Prevention, Risk Management or Minimization, Emergencies and Crisis Interventions, Exiting, Healing, and Public Attitudes.[3]

The following pages provide a brief summary of theme areas identified in the consultations and the youths' recommendations.

I became pregnant at the age of 13. This man said the child was someone else's and he left me. I left my parents' house. After the child was born, I didn't have anything and nowhere to go. A friend with a similar experience told me that I had a good figure and that with that one could make a living and that way both the child and I would survive. I support my mother who looks after my child. The worst thing about this life is that one goes out and doesn't know if she is going to return alive. It is not easy to leave this life. A person in this trade needs help, not rejection.

Dominican Republic, female 23, entered prostitution at 13

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[3] Complete original transcripts are available through OUT FROM THE SHADOWS PROJECT: The Sexually Exploited Youth Project. See Appendix 6 for address and contact numbers. The transcripts provide more detailed information on the specific life experiences and crushing pressures faced by a growing number of Canadian and international children who attempt to survive while being sexually exploited in their cities.

Recurring Themes in the Life Experiences of the Youth Participants

Many themes were brought out during the consultations. There emerged however, core recurring themes in the life experiences of the youth participants. These are:

- having been a runaway
- poverty
- homelessness
- abuse
- pregnancy
- low self-esteem
- drug addiction
- recruitment by pimps
- double lives
- lack of training and education, including education about human rights.

I want people to treat me like a human being, not like an object. I want people to understand that it's an economic situation that's put me where I am.

Haiti, 16 year old female, consultation participant

These themes were also prevalent in the youth declarations created at the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.

Some of these themes were more prevalent in either the Canadian or international consultations while others dominated in both the Canadian and international consultations. For example, abuse suffered as young children are two prevalent themes that recurred in many of the life experiences related by participants in both the Canadian and international consultations.

The summary of themes found in the following table is derived from the themes reported in the Canadian and international reports. Full wording and direct quotations reflecting actual life experiences can be found in the *Voices from the Shadows: National Summary, Canada* report and the *Voices from the Shadows: International Summary*. The order of the themes presented here has no significance.

> The only thing the sex trade does for me is make me suffer. I get up in the morning and one of the girls has died. It happens all the time. Tomorrow it might be me.
>
> *Haiti, 20 year old female, consultation participant*

Figure 3: Comparison of Recurring Themes in Life Experiences of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth[4]

Canada	International
Shared by Canadian Participants	**Shared by International Participants**
Runaways: Youth who run away from home or care usually do so in response to abuse suffered in the home or care environment. Once on the streets, there is a lack of resources such as safe shelters and financial support. Consequently, runaways are vulnerable to sexual exploitation through prostitution as a means of survival.	**Poverty**: Almost all children and youth involved in prostitution report a history of abject poverty (Canada and the United States have the most exceptions to this theme). Economic adversity often forces children into prostitution to support themselves, their own children, and/or older family members. **Homelessness**: Homelessness, often triggered by poverty and/or abuse suffered in the home or care environment, makes children and youth especially vulnerable to entering the commercial sex trade.

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[4] *Voices from the Shadows: National Summary*, January 1998 and *Voices from the Shadows: International Summary*, February 1998

Figure 3 Continued

Shared by Canadian and International Participants
Abuse: Many participants shared a history of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse at home or in care prior to becoming involved in the sex trade. Even if relatively stable and non-abusive home environments were experienced as children, severe traumas (usually a rape by someone outside their immediate family) which they felt unable to disclose to their parents or other caregivers increase a child's vulnerability to entering prostitution.
Pregnancy: Many teen mothers turn to prostitution for economic survival, due to the financial pressures of being a single parent.
Low Self-esteem: Low self-esteem due to repeated rejection on the basis of race, appearance, or sexual orientation increased the participants' vulnerability to sexual exploitation. A number of gay male youths reported being forced to leave home without financial or emotional support from their parents when they disclosed their sexual orientation.
Drug Addiction: Drug addiction is pervasive in the lives of many sexually exploited children and youth in Canada and the United States. While it is a factor in other parts of the Americas, the high levels of poverty often seem to preclude most youth from being able to sustain the expense of a drug habit. Many drug addicted children and youth turn to prostitution to support their habits, while those already being sexually exploited turn to drugs to block their pain and shame.
Recruitment by Pimps: Low self-esteem and drug use, make children and youth easier targets of coercion by pimps or gang members.
Double Lives: A number of children and youth are living "double lives," living with their family or attending school during the day while working the streets at night. Parents or caretakers usually ignore indicators, not questioning children about how they earn money or spend their time, night after night.
Lack of Training and Education, including Education about Human Rights: Many children and youth are unaware of their human rights, as children, to be protected from sexual exploitation. Canadian youth do not understand why Canada's laws regarding crimes of statutory rape and other forms of sexual exploitation are not enforced to protect them.

You go into puberty with these feelings and you have to hide. I remember in my house the worst thing I was ever called was a faggot.

Male experiential delegate, United States.

Other Observations

In addition to the core themes outlined on the previous pages, the Canadian and international consultations brought forward a number of other significant issues. These are briefly outlined below.

Observations Common to both the Canadian and International Consultations

The Extensiveness of the Sex Trade

The sex trade is far more extensive than most people realize. The children and youth seen on the streets represent only a very small number of children being sexually abused for sexual gratification. Children and youth are used for sex in public washrooms, in the back of stores, in parks, in massage parlours, in hotel rooms, in night-clubs, in bars, in back alleys, at social functions and as part of providing a 'service' to out of town business customers. Experiential delegates in the consultations talked about a lawyer that provides girls to out-of-town clients, and a knick knack store owner that kept a few girls in the back room 'for sale.'

> How I got involved in being a prostitute is pretty basic. I was set up by sexual abuse when I was 9. To me, the abuse experiences as a child set me up. I thought that was how a man proved he loved me, by having sex with me. I was so young that eventually it just became normal to be abused.
>
> *Halifax, female lived on street from age 13-20, consultation participant*

Age at Which Children and Youth Are Sexually Exploited

Both in Canada and internationally, no common age factor was identified by the consultations. Many youth however reported that more and more pre-teens are being forced into prostitution at ever-younger ages.

Point of Entry into the Sex Trade

The streets are not the most common point-of-entry into the sex trade, just the most visible. Many children and youth enter into the sex trade through escort services, massage parlours, brothels or within their own homes when family members provide them for sexual services.

Who the Pimps Are

Unlike the stereotype that is perpetuated by media, pimps are not restricted to the flashily dressed smooth-talking con man that walks the street seducing children and youth into the trade. Pimps include businessmen who provide girls for sexual services to clients, storeowners who exploit children in the back of their stores, and family members and boyfriends who live off of their girlfriends in the trade.

Role of the Family

The lack of love and attention in the home may drive children and youth into the sex trade. This, coupled with family disinterest in the lives of their children, keeps the children and youth in the trade.

The Treatment of Sexually Exploited Youth as Criminals

In the Canadian and international consultations the children and youth repeatedly stated that they do not understand why they, as sexually exploited children and youth attempting to survive, are treated as criminals and condemned, while the adults who buy and sell them, fear no sanctions and are condoned.

> I was destroyed inside and very lonely knowing that even my mother couldn't love me. I felt marked, ashamed that someone wouldn't love me.
>
> *Female experiential delegate (Peru) who had to leave home when her mother remarried and had many more children.*

Barriers to Youth Protecting Themselves

Two major deterrents that discourage children and youth from taking action to protect themselves against pimps are:

1. lack of police protection for girls who agree to "sign" against a pimp to initiate prosecution; and
2. fear of retaliation by other members of a pimp's gang if a pimp is identified or convicted.

Canadian Consultation Observations

The Role of Men

In the Canadian consultations, across almost all regions, participants reported that the sexual exploitation of both male and female youth was being conducted by men, both as "johns" and pimps; only one youth in one city spoke of female "customers." The clear exception was Montreal, where more than one Montreal male youth participant reported sexual exploitation by women.

Pimps financially exploit many of the female children and youth involved in the sex trade but few of the males.

Recommendations from the Canadian and International Consultations

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the recommendations given by the youth participants with direct experience of the sex trade. Many of the recommendations made by the participants in the Canadian and international consultations are reflected in the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, which was a product of OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. However, readers of this report are strongly urged to review the full text of the recommendations contained in the *Voices from the Shadows: National Summary*, Canada report and the *Voices from the Shadows: International Summary* report.

> I agree that school programs have to start in the elementary grades. Right now I know three girls out on the street in the evenings, one in grade 7, one in grade 8, one in grade 9. If I have kids I'm going to explain things to them, take time to do it a little better, and not just show them a movie and say don't do that, stay away from these kinds of people etc. Parents need to talk to their kids, to understand what is happening in their daily life, to make sure the kids feel safe to tell them about anything that has happened to them.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Calgary, Canada*

Prevention

- Both Canadian and international participants strongly recommended educational initiatives as a priority in educating parents and caregivers with regards to providing stable and supportive home environments and communication skills. The clear message was "we all need to care for the children."
- While eliminating child poverty and abuse was an issue in the Canadian consultations, poverty was the priority for international participants. Poverty and the lack of education and training contribute to hopelessness and lack of interest in the children, abuse, and violence. Until basic economic issues are addressed, parents and caregivers will have little time or energy to devote to guiding the psychological and emotional development of their children, particularly in developing countries.
- Educating children about the hard realities of life on the streets, and de-glamorizing prostitution and drug use in the media were also recommended.

Risk Management or Minimization

- The provision of safe shelters, health care, health information, and of opportunities and resources for sexually exploited children and youth to assist, support, and teach each other were recommended both within Canada and internationally.

Emergencies and Crisis Interventions

- Safe shelters, safety vans to patrol prostitution strolls, non-judgmental psychological and medical care, and supportive police protection were recommended both in Canada and internationally.

Exiting

- North American youth describe exiting as a complex and difficult process. It requires both a clear personal decision and community support to sustain them while they grapple with the issues of economic survival, acquisition of life skills, addiction, loneliness, and the low self-esteem that kept them trapped in the sex trade.
- Youth in developing countries emphasize economic factors as the main deterrent for exiting the sex trade. Most are unskilled and have no other survival options.
- All youth recommended the provision of safe shelters staffed by people with direct personal experience in the sex trade where they can receive immediate psychological, emotional and economic assistance and protection.
- The provision of safe shelters and support has to be immediate. Participants stressed that the window of opportunity to assist someone who has made the decision to exit is small. As they turn to face the overwhelming economic and life skill challenges that face them, many return quickly to the sex trade for support.

> If I find something else to do, I'm leaving the street. There's all kinds of risks: you can get sick, you're not safe, the police hassle you. Even the johns can kill you at any time.
>
> *Haiti, female 16 years old, consultation participant*

Healing

Healing is a personal journey that the youth must guide. Other people can act as ongoing resources and support, but each person's path to healing may be different. Consequently, the youth do not recommend creating 'programs for healing' that are not able to be responsive to the needs of the individual youth, but recommend that longer-term supports should include:

- The provision of ongoing economic assistance during the healing and connecting process.
- Ongoing psychological and emotional assistance (especially through "youth supporting youth" programs).
- Practical life skills training and support to overcome addictions.
- Affordable education and training to support youth in obtaining economically viable employment.

> I'm still working the streets. No one can live off welfare. You can't live off $300 unless you live in a slum. If they had more programs with Connection housing, more opportunities to access Open Door, maybe there wouldn't be so many girls working. 98% of the girls out there are single mothers, because there aren't enough programs to help us.
>
> *Calgary: Female started prostitution at age 20, consultation participant*

Public Attitudes

Changing prevalent public attitudes about the sex trade and sexually exploited children and youth is a great challenge. The participants' recommendations included:

- Promoting awareness, understanding, and action.
- Debunking stereotypes and myths about the sex trade.
- Educating adults and children about child rights and human rights in general.
- Making children a global priority: promote caring and compassion for all children and youth.

> The thing I want most from people is respect, not dirty names. Why don't they talk to the authorities and put an end to our situation.
>
> *Haiti, 14 year old consultation participant*

Phase 2 OUT FROM THE SHADOWS

The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

> We represent thousands of voices. Many of our friends are dead: from drugs, from suicide, from AIDS, from murder.
>
> *Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*

He told me he loved me.
I thought that he cared.
He said it was O.K. for me to feel different, abnormal.
I was a special kind of person, like him.
We would never be accepted as normal because we were on a higher level than everyone else.
He captured my trust, like a caged bird, only so he could take my innocence, then make me a whore.
He made me believe that I was beautiful.
"Inside and out."
Our sick perversions and fantasy games were something that people like us did for fun.
He thought that I would stay innocent forever.
He was wrong.
Everything was fine as long as he could control and seduce me.
What he failed to consider was that I learn fast.
His baby bird became a hawk.
He got scared, jealous that I was in control.
He should have known better.
After all, I'm "Special," aren't I?

Female experiential delegate, Victoria, Canada
Creative Writing Workshop

Summit Description

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth was divided into Part 1: Finding Voice, and Part 2: Voices From the Shadows. The Final Program of the Summit, which outlines the events of Parts 1 and 2, can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Finding Voice gave youth with experience as sexually exploited children or youth the opportunity to share their stories with each other and with support people, and to formulate youth declarations in a variety of media. These delegates who had experienced the exploitation of the commercial sex trade as children or youth, were referred to as experiential youth, or experiential delegates. This was an important distinction to make, as the experiential delegates were joined on the last two days of the Summit by delegates from government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other support organizations. These delegates were referred to as non-experiential delegates. The terms 'experiential' and 'non-experiential' underline the fact that youth who have experienced the exploitation of the commercial sex trade are the true experts on issues of sexual exploitation of children and youth.

I know you help each other, that you are each other's families. Whatever it is we can do we will try to do, but we need to hear from you, we need to know what has happened.

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth) Government of Canada

Part 1: Finding Voice

Finding Voice took place over the first three days of the Summit. During Finding Voice, experiential delegates met in facilitated workshops to share their experiences and develop a shared vision for change to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of young people. These visions for change were incorporated into the youth declarations.

The framework for these workshops was set through daily opening and closing plenary sessions where the youth were addressed by Summit Co-chairs Senator Landon Pearson and Ms. Cherry Kingsley, their fellow experiential delegates, and non-experiential delegates who attended Finding Voice as resource people. The outcomes of Finding Voice were the youth declarations in their various forms, each of which uniquely expressed the stories, beliefs, hopes and visions of the experiential youth:

- the endorsed Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth
- a two-act play written and performed by the Theatre Arts workshop
- a percussion and chanting song developed and performed by the Musical Arts workshop
- paintings, drawings and sculptures created in the Visual Arts workshop, and
- short stories and poems written in the Creative Writing workshop.

Part 2: Voices From the Shadows

On the final two days of the Summit, during Voices From the Shadows, a number of forums were held in which people responsible for laws, policies and services, and the general public, were presented with the youth declarations by experiential delegates. Each forum provided a different opportunity to communicate the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* and the artistic declarations to people interested in making a positive difference in the lives of sexually exploited children and youth. Most forums then provided a framework for bringing non-experiential delegates together with the youth to develop effective strategies for implementing the vision for change as voiced in each of the declarations. These discussions took place in:

- Forum 2 *Voices From The Shadows*: The Summit Forum Workshops
- Forum 3 *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum
- Forum 4 *Into the Light*: The Public Forum
- Forum 5 *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum.

The experiential delegates chose whether or not they wished to attend or participate directly in forum sessions and public presentations and which audiences they would address.

Delegates

Thirty-seven delegates with experience as sexually exploited children and youth attended the five-day Summit. The delegates were drawn from the Canadian and international consultations. Sixteen Canadian delegates came from nine Canadian cities: Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's. Sixteen delegates from the international consultations represented Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru, and Brazil. Five youth from the United States came from Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York.

Each consultation group also sent one support person for the two delegates. The support people, many of whom also had experience as sexually exploited children or youth, provided stability for the delegates as well as a trusted person to turn to for emotional support. For non-English speaking youth, the support person was bilingual and was always available to assist with translation or interpretation. In many cases, due to their backgrounds of sexual exploitation which closely mirrored that of their group members, the support people contributed directly to the formulation of the youth declarations.

The Summit organizers, with the assistance of close to 100 volunteers did everything they could to ensure a safe, supportive, respectful and culturally sensitive environment for the delegates.

The names of the experiential delegates, both Canadian and international, consultation group members and support people, have been kept confidential to allow them to speak openly and freely of their experiences without fear of reprisal or repercussion.

I am from Peru. I am here because I want to be able to let my feelings be known. I would like to study.

I am from the Dominican Republic. I do not want my daughter to go out onto the street with me. I want her to be proud that I didn't let her die of hunger. She will be something, maybe even a senator, but she has to walk with her head held high.

I am from Honduras. Everyone has value and worth.

I am from Winnipeg. I really believe sexual exploitation is child abuse.

I am from Bolivia. I would like to get better by helping myself psychologically. I would like to leave [the sex – trade]. To rehabilitate myself. To get a good job.

I am from Bolivia. I hope to find someone who truly loves me for myself. That is my hope.

I am from Brazil. I want another way, but in my country no one will listen to me.

I am from New York. I made the decision to give my life to God. God has been good to me but it's a process, it's still a process. There is still stuff that comes up.

Guiding Principles of the Summit

Early in the planning stages of the Summit, careful consideration was given to establishing guiding principles. The principles formed the underpinning of all decisions made regarding how the Summit was structured, who would participate, and how the issues raised by the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth would be communicated and addressed.

The following pages provide an overview of the guiding principles of the Summit and examples of how the principles were applied during both the planning stages and implementation of the Summit.

Overview of Guiding Principles

Principle 1: Listening to the Voice of the Youth

Listening to the Voice of the Youth includes:

MEANINGFUL AND VISIBLE DECISION MAKING: Experiential children and youth must play a meaningful and visible decision making role in the development of any and all efforts directed at ameliorating the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. Wherever possible, the children and youth should play a role in the development of the participation process itself.

REALISTIC PARTICIPATION: Opportunities, support, and resources for participation must be realistic and address the circumstances under which the delegates with experience as sexually exploited children and youth live.

RECOGNITION OF THE EXPERTISE OF THE YOUTH: The experiential delegates are the only real experts regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.

MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE: Processes that use the experiences and expertise of commercially exploited youth must create a better life opportunity for those youth or they become part of perpetuating their exploitation.

Application of this Principle

During the planning of the Summit the principle of Listening to the Voice of the Youth was applied by:

- Employing the expertise of former sex trade workers in the development and planning of the Summit.
- Giving the experiential delegates the choice whether or not to attend the Summit.

At the Summit, the principle of Listening to the Voice of the Youth was applied by:

- A genuine willingness to listen and learn from the delegates' experiences.
- Encouraging open dialogue.
- Ensuring that the experiential delegates had a safe and supportive environment in which to speak openly.
- Making it easier for experiential delegates to attend by paying the costs of transportation and day-care for their children.
- Using interpreters both for simultaneous interpretation and for small group work. A commitment was made that the support people would be bilingual as well.
- The experiential delegates had the choice of working in five workshop teams to express their voice:
  - ➢ Team 1 Drafting the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*
  - ➢ Team 2 Theatre Arts Declaration
  - ➢ Team 3 Musical Arts Declaration
  - ➢ Team 4 Visual Arts Declaration
  - ➢ Team 5 Creative Writing Declaration.
- Being flexible and quick to react when pre-planned processes and workshop formats did not 'work' for the delegates. For example:
  - ➢ When the pre-planned process for writing the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* was not effective, it was changed

immediately to reflect the needs of the experiential delegates, and

- ➢ The experiential delegates restructured the plenary sessions to better respond to their needs.

Principle 2: Creating a Safe Place

Creating a Safe Place for all participants includes:

ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE'S DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS: Whatever their race or culture, whether they are male or female, whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight or transgendered, people must be accepted.

RESPECT FOR PEOPLE'S DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, VALUES AND OPINIONS: Show respect for other people by listening to what they have to say, by not interrupting them and by attempting to understand their perspective whether or not you agree with, or understand, their opinion.

SAFE, VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL PARTICIPATION: The safety of youth that participate in the development and implementation of solutions and strategies must be a primary concern. Their anonymity must be respected if they so choose, confidentiality must be explicitly acknowledged, and all involvement must be voluntary. If any disclosure laws may apply participants must be told before any disclosures are made.

Application of this Principle

During the planning of the Summit the principle of Creating a Safe Place was applied by:

- Ensuring that meeting and workshop rooms could be closed off for privacy and safety.
- Training facilitators and resource people in creating safe environments both physically and emotionally.

At the Summit, the principle of Creating a Safe Place was applied by:

- Giving instructions to the media not to interview or take pictures of experiential delegates without express permission.

Colour coded name tags were used to identify which delegates did not want to have their picture taken or to be included in any video footage of the Summit.

- Asking the experiential delegates to volunteer to be spokespeople if they chose. There was a Communications Room where spokespeople talked to the media. The Communications Room was separate from any of the workshop rooms or areas where the youth socialized.
- Opening some events to the press and closing others. There was, however, a press conference daily to enable the media to gather information in order to report on the Summit.
- Providing experiential delegates with clothing suitable to Victoria's climate. Donations were solicited and experiential delegates were given a selection of warmer clothing to choose from. As well, delegates were provided with additional suitcases in order to take extra clothing back to their homes.
- Providing experiential delegates with pocket money.
- Providing counselling services 24 hours a day.
- Providing health services 24 hours a day.
- Providing a hospitality room. The hospitality room was a safe place to 'hang out,' with snacks and support staff available.
- Providing experiential delegates with information about Canada's laws relating to liquor and drug use and sexual and physical abuse.
- Ensuring experiential delegates were accompanied by a support person.

In the end, Summit delegates want from the media what most people want: a fair shake, a little consideration, acknowledgement that none of us know more about the truths of prostitution than those who work in the sex trade. And, that when work is done for the day, there is a whole other complex person waiting to be heard from.

Jody Paterson, Editorial Page Editor, Victoria Times Colonist, Media Co-ordinator, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

Principle 3: Capacity Building

Capacity Building includes:

SELF-HELP: Understanding the value and importance of utilizing the youth's ability to help themselves and each other. Room must be made for the youth to gather together and to talk to each other without expectations.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: Supporting experiential delegates in becoming a central part of the creation and delivery of the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*. This is in keeping with the belief that those who have personally experienced commercial sexual exploitation should be supported to become a central part in the creation and delivery of services to assist others currently in the sex trade.

Application of the Principle

During the planning of the Summit the principle of Capacity Building was applied by:

- Including youth that had been sexually exploited in central roles in the Summit's development and management. The organization of the project itself was seen as an opportunity to build capacity within a community where membership, by definition, precludes traditional educational opportunities and employment training. Building that training into the Summit was essential in order for the Summit to meet its stated goal of listening to the voices of the real "experts."

At the Summit the principle of Capacity Building was applied by:

- Selecting a former experiential youth as Co-chair of the Summit.
- Having the workshops co-facilitated by experiential delegates.
- Ensuring that the experiential delegates were central to developing solutions and recommending programs for change. By including the experiential delegates alongside of the government and other non-experiential participants, the youth had an opportunity to learn how provision of services is structured and how to approach people in power when bringing about change.

- Changing the format of the way in which the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* was developed. During the first workshop to develop the written declaration, team members realized that the process of allowing non-experiential delegates acting as resource people to have input to the declaration was not working. The voice of the experiential delegates was being lost. Instead, experiential delegates placed themselves in the centre of the workshop talking circle and non-experiential support and resource people were placed on the outside, where they were allowed to listen only. This ensured that the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* was developed and written by the experiential delegates themselves using their life experiences as the basis, with guidance only in the process.

Part 1: Finding Voice

Methodology

Forum 1 *Finding Voice*: The Youth Declarations, combined the use of plenary sessions and small group workshops. In addition, there were some evening activities to encourage delegates from different cities and cultures to get together socially, to participate in creative and fun activities, or to simply enjoy some relaxation and 'down time' together. One activity was the opportunity for delegates to design and paint their own OUT FROM THE SHADOWS T-shirt.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions were used to welcome the delegates to each day, review the day's process and themes and for sharing information with all the Summit delegates after small group workshops. Even though these were large group sessions, many efforts were made to make delegates feel comfortable and to encourage participation.

Finding Voice opened on the evening previous to Day 1 with an informal plenary session where all delegates were encouraged to share their hopes for the Summit. After introductory welcoming statements by Summit Co-chairs Ms. Cherry Kingsley and Senator Landon Pearson and members of the organizing committee, delegates were asked to form a circle. Each delegate was given a candle; as delegates told of their dreams for the Summit, their candle was lit, symbolically bringing them out of the shadows. Their hopes, brilliant in their simplicity and pureness, are summarized on the following page.

- I hope to realize new projects.
- I hope we will all sit down and look at how people entered the sex trade and to find a pattern to solve this problem so other people will not get involved.
- I hope to create a world where children grow up safe and happy.
- I hope to learn from others' experiences.
- I know this is only the beginning, but I hope to provoke real change.
- I hope to meet new people and tell my story.
- I hope to teach and learn from everyone – to make friendships and take something home to my country.
- I hope to organize solutions at a community level; sexual abuse centres and other options for employment.
- I hope prostitutes get respect because we are seen badly. We need rights, respect and a voice.
- I hope to make personal contributions to record human violations and abuses of human rights.
- I hope to make people aware and sensitive to the exploitation of youth and children.
- I hope to grow from the experience; to grow beyond the stereotypes which keep us down.
- I hope to develop inner respect.
- I hope to hear the reasons people enter the sex trade because it depends on culture – there are patterns.
- I hope to be able to present my state with a list of alternatives.
- I hope the girls on the street get a home.
- I hope there will be no more violence against the poor.
- I hope to bring happiness back and share what I learned.
- I hope to learn and take good things back to my country.
- I hope that people can learn who we really are and not our stereotypes.

Comments by the experiential delegates about their hopes for the Summit

The Opening Plenary

Prior to the speeches of the opening plenary, and in keeping with First Nations traditions, a smudge was done in order to provide a spiritually cleansed atmosphere.

The Honourable Landon Pearson, then opened the plenary session. Excerpted below are some of the comments made by speakers at the opening plenary.

The Honourable Landon Pearson, Summit Co-chair

There is a spirit brooding over the suffering that you all carry. That spirit has energy but the spirit needs us to tap that energy in order to transform your pain into something that we can share with the rest of the world. We all have to work together in order to do something about this issue and in order to have your stories heard and in order to have people, like myself, who have perhaps some possibility of influencing change, to hear what you have to say and to do the right thing and not the wrong thing.

I am here because I think I have always felt strongly abut the importance of children. There is a whole world in the shadows from which I hope many of you are coming out. It's the need for stories to open up that space so that we know all the stories of children: so we can make the lives of all children better.

We are anxious to hear your stories. I am going to make use of every little aspect of them that I possibly can.

Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair

We have to be united. We have to have a vision for [the non-experiential delegates]. We have to compel them. I know that anyone who has any humanity left inside of them when they hear your voices will be moved; will be compelled. But we have only three days to develop a vision.

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth)

I am honoured to be with you and to be part of this process. The sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes is more than a crime. It is an appalling violation of the human rights of the most vulnerable members of our society. Canada, like many other countries, is committed to promoting the human rights of children through the ratification of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Canada recognizes that if government and non-governmental organizations are to be successful they need effective initiatives and strategies for change. And that in designing these they need the help of those people who have the greatest understanding of the problem. Only through your voices, the voices of young people with experience in the sex trade, can we hope to fill the gaps in knowledge that have prevented the effective solutions to address the issues of commercial sexual exploitation.

Anyone could end up where you have ended up. Anybody. it could happen to anybody. But, it happened to you. And, it is your story. And, you know, we can't continue to let you live your story as victims. We have to get you out of the story and into a life for yourselves and for your friends and the children behind you. We have to end the sadness, the cruelty, the humiliation. All of those things that we can change we should change.

Bertil Lindblad, Chief, Child Protection Section, UNICEF, New York

UNICEF is the UN focal point, voice, but also agency working with governments around the world. UNICEF is the collaborator with the governments of the countries where UNICEF operates and that is about 135 countries. I head up a team in UNICEF, New York working on child protection using the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Convention is the framework that we should use. We are talking about human rights and children's rights.

The World Congress was an eye opener for the world. So, we are now building on what happened in Stockholm where 122 governments did sign on. So, that when all of us return to our respective jobs, to our countries, our communities we can point to this fact and keep that momentum going and add in what we learned from here.

I am here to listen and learn. My job is to return to UNICEF to push even more with my team and my colleagues in New York. And also our colleagues in Bangkok, in Nairobi, in Bogota, in Moscow, wherever they may be to really analyze the situation and mobilize more UNICEF action primarily with the governments but very often also with non-governmental organizations and community based organizations.

Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography

Gender is getting to be less and less important in sexual exploitation. It is just as scary to think of young boys being equally vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

Dear Creator,

We are gathered here to speak about our children, and to listen to them, their lives, their pasts and most of all their futures. These Creator are the gifts of greatness you have given us to love, protect, and treasure. What have we done Creator? We have affronted you. Some we have forsaken, some we have forgotten and abandoned.

Let us open our hearts and minds and appreciate what it is that you have bestowed upon us. Give them love, give them enduring friendship, give them joy and help them in their healing journey.

Creator, give us the power to rediscover a new path, a new day to dream big dreams to achieve our own greatness. Put no limits Creator, on what good will, good spirits and good relations will build between us for now and every day forward.

Remember our children are what we are — Creator we are all equals in your spirit and goodness. We all have the capacity for greatness and love; let us be all that to one another.

Prayer given by
The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew,
Secretary of State (Children and Youth)
On the occasion of the opening session of
Out From the Shadows: International Youth Summit for
Sexually Exploited Youth
Victoria, B.C. March 8,1998

Small Group Workshops

Each experiential delegate chose one of five workshop teams to join. The workshops provided an ongoing opportunity for delegates to work together on creating their declarations. The workshop teams were:

Team 1: Drafting the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*
Team 2: Theatre Arts Declaration
Team 3: Music Arts Declaration
Team 4: Visual Arts Declaration
Team 5: Creative Writing Declaration.

> Media should be actual partners in advocacy for protection of children. If that were the only thing that came out of this Summit it would be a success. I realize that media has to perform a delicate balancing act: how to report without re-victimizing the children. This should be addressed by the children themselves.
>
> *Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Pornography*

Each workshop team was to represent its own declaration in the chosen media. Delegates were encouraged to switch teams until they found the media they were comfortable with. After the team membership had solidified, Senator Pearson, in a plenary on the second day of Finding Voice, asked the delegates to permit each team to represent the views of the entire delegation in whatever media was being used. Thus, for example, the team challenged with drafting the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* was given permission to do so on behalf of all experiential delegates in attendance, thus endorsing the *Declaration.*

Each of the five teams met for three intensive sessions. During each session, the life experiences, beliefs, issues and recommendations as they pertained to the themes of Prevention, Harm Reduction, Emergency and Crisis Situations, Healing and Connecting, and Advocacy and Public Attitudes were explored. Use of these themes provided a framework for creating the youth declarations and provided continuity from the Canadian and international consultations where these themes were also used.

During these workshops, non-experiential delegates were restricted to roles of facilitators, note takers, and volunteers in active support roles.

On the first and second day, most of the workshops opened with various games that helped participants learn each others' names and develop a level of comfort and trust with the group and the process. The process was flexible in order to respond to how the youth preferred to work. All participants had the right to not participate in any exercise if it made them feel uncomfortable. The projects developed during these workshops formed the core of the youth delegate presentations in forums of Voices From the Shadows on Days 4 and 5 of the Summit. Not all delegates took an active role in the presentations on Days 4 and 5 but all were active participants in the development of the presentations during the first three days.

Ensuring the Delegates Understood the Themes

Prior to the facilitated team workshops, the delegates broke out into informal groups to explore the themes focused on each day. The facilitators ensured that delegates had a full understanding of each theme and that they recognized the issues of their fellow delegates around these themes.

> I started to work when my mommy died. My dad has another wife and pays no attention to us. I look after my three brothers. I am the only one taking care. I am not praising myself. But, they have a roof over their heads, they go to school, they have shoes. If I were alone, I would not have started in this work.
> *Female experiential delegate, Bolivia.*

Key questions asked by the facilitators during these informal sessions included:

- What does [theme] mean?
- What do you want to share and communicate about this issue?
- What stories from your community do you bring that illustrate this issue?

Once the theme was understood, the facilitator moved toward a more detailed discussion based on the theme for that day. Some questions used by the facilitators were:

PREVENTION: What would have prevented you from entering the sex trade? Think about what might have helped you personally? What could have been different in your family, your community?

RISK MANAGEMENT/HARM REDUCTION: What are the risks facing children and youth in the sex trade? What could have made being in the sex trade less risky?

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS: Can you describe what kind of emergency and crisis situations you faced? What supports would have made a difference?

HEALING AND CONNECTING: What is healing? What supports are there for exiting the sex trade? Once you've decided to exit, what supports are there to sustain that decision and what supports are available to heal from the experience? What supports are needed for healing?

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES: What attitudes about prostitution and the sex trade have you encountered? How has that affected your experience? How do you think we might change those attitudes?

Doors are always closed to us when we try to heal and start over. We get a job and when people find out we were prostitutes, they mistreat us and we go back to prostitution. We are treated as objects, as animals.

Female experiential delegate, Bolivia

Written transcripts of these informal sessions were made. In keeping with the Guiding Principle of Listening to the Voice of the Youth, the process and structure of the workshops was flexible and open to change to better meet the needs of the experiential delegates. On the second day of the sessions, the groups decided to reorganize based on language and gender. The Spanish and Portuguese-speaking delegates formed separate groups and the male delegates formed their own group.

Once the issues had been thoroughly discussed the youth and the facilitators went into their team workshops to work on their declaration projects.

Three men took me into a car. I didn't want to have sex that night because I was going to look for my daughter. They dropped me in a vacant area. The police found me and undressed me. They threw my clothes two blocks away and I had to walk naked to get my clothes. It was a vacant place with many dogs, and I was bitten by two or three dogs.

Experiential female delegate, Chile

Team Results

The youth delegate teams in the workshops produced a wide variety of declarations that revealed their concerns, recommendations and vision for change. Despite the harshness and ugliness of much of their lives, what dominated their declarations was tremendous energy and hope. While they brought into the light the grim reality of the bleak lives of sexually exploited children and youth, they also communicated enormous hope for the future. Where one would have expected bitterness and outpourings of anger, the youth showed their pain yet asked only for some support and assistance so that they could change their own lives. Outlined briefly on the following pages are examples of what was created during the three days of Finding Voice.

Team 1 – Drafting the written Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth

Over the course of three days, experiential delegates drafted and endorsed the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* The process that developed the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* began in a predetermined traditional workshop format that included a draft declaration and agenda for action prepared and distributed prior to the Summit. Youth present at the workshop tried to frame their experiences and stories within the context of the draft document, while non-experiential participants also provided input. It became immediately apparent that what the youth present really needed was a safe place to tell their stories and relate their experiences. Thus, halfway through the first-day workshop the physical format of the workshop was changed to create such a safe place. Experiential delegates sat in a circle in the middle while non-experiential participants sat on the outside, allowed only to listen. The inner circle then told their stories, one by one, without interruption and with no attempt to fit into the day's theme.

On the second and third days, the inner circle told stories of their experiences that related to the themes of the Summit. The facilitator for this workshop was Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair, who also had experience of sexual exploitation as a child and youth. Also in attendance were a facilitator/recorder, one volunteer recorder and a Summit rapporteur. As the facilitator encouraged the group to feel safe and speak freely, the facilitator/recorder sat in the inner circle and extracted shared beliefs, issues, and recommendations from the stories being told (as this person was also experiential, he was able to sit in the inner circle). The recorder then took the transcripts and organized the notes into usable documents for drafting the written *Declaration* document. The rapporteur transcribed all stories told, and assisted the volunteer recorder in organizing the workshop notes. Through the tears, pain, experiences, and hopes expressed, themes, beliefs, and recommendations emerged.

After the last team session on Day 3, inner circle youth, recorders, Summit rapporteurs and resource people worked together to produce the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action*. It is important to emphasize that all declarations, beliefs and recommendations contained in the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* were written by the experiential delegates from the inner circle, based on the notes taken by recorders and facilitators derived from the youth's stories. The experiential delegates organized the process, and they created the format for the *Declaration*. The support people present at the working session to produce the final document assisted with process, formatting, and production and acted as sounding boards for the youth.

Please see Appendix 1 for the full text of the *Declaration and Agenda for Action.*

Team 2 – Theatre Arts

On Day 1 of the theatre workshop the participants played two theatre games in order to create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. The first involved each participant attempting to touch their partner's knees while protecting his or her own. This evoked much laughter from the delegates. The second game involved a circle of people passing around one member. The room was silent as the person gravitated around the circle, entrusting his or her safety to the group. When the concentration broke, there was often applause to recognize the struggle that the free falling person had undergone in order to trust. Some of the participants were easily able to trust while others had more difficulty in relaxing into the game.

Day 2 activities focused on thinking of a time when the youth delegates felt proud and then acting this out. Ten of the women acted out the birth of a child and their enormous pride in being mothers.

Another activity involved the youth acting out, without words, their own story. After acting out their story, some youth spoke to what they had experienced in their life. Some of these stories are outlined below:

- One girl shared her experience of trauma when she was a child with cancer.
- Another female delegate set up a tableau of being raped while another man stood at the door knocking and smiling.
- One set up the image of a woman smoking crack from a pop can.
- Another showed a woman on her knees being struck by a man.
- One girl set up a woman on her back with legs spread under a cloth, a man peering at her while drinking wine, a woman holding her hand. She then spoke: when she was 11, her mother died giving birth while the doctor was drunk. The room was silent. There were tears.
- Another woman set up a scene in which a woman with her skirt being grabbed is shaking her hand 'no,' people in the background are drinking, children are crying in the foreground, a woman lies on the couch resting. The youth explained that with four children and the father drinking she must go out at night to work and leave the children to take care of each other and the small baby. She must get up each day and care for the children and is very sad for this.
- A male youth set the scene of a man being held at gunpoint by another man. He explained that at age 17 he was taken 200 miles away from the city and raped at gunpoint and then thrown out in a blizzard without a jacket. He thought he would freeze, but God sent an angel, a little old man in a station wagon, who came and took him home.
- Another youth set the scene where a man on a chair is doing intra-venous drugs while a woman is slumped in a chair beside him and a girl is crying and watching them. She explained that

everyday while she was growing up people in her house were fixing. She became an addict at 15 and it is this image of numbness that brought her to the streets.

- Finally, a woman set up a tableau of a woman lying on her back with a man on top of her, fist raised. Two months ago her girlfriend was violated and killed by a client.

Days 2 and 3 of the workshop were spent creating a two-act play, designed to be performed without the use of words. The delegates, who were mostly Spanish, wanted the play to be uplifting, beautiful and fun. The use of mime rather than spoken language enabled all participants to fully understand and respond to the play without the need for translation. The themes expressed in the play reflected the themes of the Summit: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Emergency and Crisis Situations, Healing and Connecting, Advocacy and Public Attitudes.

People get into prostitution once they have been abused. They sort of feel like damaged goods. Prostitution didn't start when you turned your first trick. You had been prepared for that psychologically for years. Recognizing kids that are high risk for being recruited into the industry is important.
Female experiential delegate, Toronto, Canada

ACT ONE of the play opened to a scene of sex trade workers in a bar waiting for customers. The customers arrive. The women are forced to dance with the men. There is a thief who pickpockets some customers and the women. He is snorting cocaine. The men behave in a proprietary manner toward the women, and drink heavily. Some 'johns' slap the women around. The owner of the bar does nothing. The police come in. They try to arrest the thief and the thief ends up accidentally killing one of the women. The police ignore the women that are with 'johns' but hassle the others. The women are busted and the men are left drinking in the bar, untouched. There are no repercussions for the behaviour of the men or the accidental death of the woman. No one cares.

ACT TWO of the play spoke to the hopes of the workers for healing and moving forward into the light – into a new time of their life. One worker was cradling a child, another cutting and styling hair. One was a painter, another a sculptor. Yet another worked creating small crafts to sell in a market while one worker had become a fashion model. This Act was filled with dynamic energy and hope and excitement over "what could be."

Team 3 – Music Arts

Using a variety of percussion instruments, including their own hands, the experiential delegates created a powerful musical presentation of their declaration that included chanting as well as instrumental performance. Using the technique of body percussion, that is, creating a song in rhythms by clapping and swaying, the youth created a beat and then applied it to percussion instruments such as the drum, tambourines, maracas, and sticks.

"Love your children"
All experiential delegates, Music Workshop

The music presentation opened with a West African song of welcome called Gahu. It is a folk song and a dancing song that is full of energy. Then, the youth made a song from the words heard in the sessions. Each participant chose the words that related how they got into the trade: abuse, neglect, police, poverty and sadness. These words were sung out individually between clapping and beating out the rhythm.

The song was emotionally powerful as it spoke to the themes of prevention, advocacy and the need to change public attitudes.

The presentation closed with drum beating of increasing intensity and all the experiential delegates singing out fully and loudly as one voice, "Love Your Children!"

Team 4 – Visual Arts

Over the course of three days the youth worked independently in open and private rooms. They used pencils, paint, coloured pencils, cloth canvas, clay board, glitter, glue sticks, coloured paper, clay, pastels, wire and string. The atmosphere was personal, casual, experimental, shy, and bright. The process used in the art room created a nurturing space, which encouraged creativity. Working in visual arts gave the youth an opportunity to clarify issues and provided an emotional problem-solving vehicle.

After three days of intensive work, the experiential delegates displayed a substantial art collection. It included full-sized doors that had been painted as well as large oil canvasses. They created numerous pieces of art that reflected all of the themes of the Summit. Some of the feelings expressed through the visual art included:

- A painting that depicts a soul being sucked from an individual.

- A mural depicting a New York skyscraper with lines sharply drawn as the buildings dominate the scene. Tears and money are falling from the sky. “You may live in a city of 8 million people, and still be the loneliest person on earth.”
- A portrait of a tall, strong, ‘sexy chick.’
- A large painting on canvas celebrating womanhood and diversity.
- A wire sculpture with screws and rusty nails with a ‘don’t touch me’ message of protection.
- A pencil drawing of a man with the words: “he works hard for the money.”
- A painting on canvas board where a black diagonal line divides the colourful life of the day and the dark secret side. A young man stands in the centre, also cut through by the diagonal line. A streak of red-purple flows between the two sections from the centre of the young man. Said the artist, “*it’s my soul, hopefully it flows more often to the side of colour and life.*”
- A painting of a decrepit little prostitute with a big penis “because that is the only thing that people see us as.”

Photographs of some of these works will be reproduced in future Summit proceedings.

> “How beautiful the world would be if everything would change.”
>
> I travelled without knowing where I was going... destinations... where I was... here I am in reality.
>
> *Experiential delegate letters from Creative Writing Declaration workshop*

Team 5 – Creative Writing

The creative writing workshop opened with introductions including brief comments by the experiential delegates on their life experiences in the commercial sex trade. The focus of the workshop was to allow the youth an environment in which they could relax and share their truths. Working within all the languages of the Summit, the experiential delegates created poetry and short stories reflecting their experience and their hopes.

On Day 2 participants wrote letters to people who had helped them; letters are a popular medium and less intimidating than poetry. The letters were not intended to be sent but were vehicles through which delegates could declare themselves. The mood of the workshop was happy, friendly and contemplative. The participants had the option of reading their letters out loud. One youth wrote a note to Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair of the Summit:

"You represent a realism. You ignited a spark to represent the world at large, and the world within."

One activity on Day 2 spoke eloquently to the absurd way in which society rationalizes the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The participants were asked to write lies about the sex trade. Some of the responses are listed below:

- Society gives us a great deal of respect.
- I love being treated like a whore.
- Being treated like a sex object makes me feel great.
- Prostitutes are cold hearted and can't feel.
- Stilettos are the most comfortable shoes I've ever worn.
- I'm in love with my pimp.
- I'd like to recommend the sex trade as a career and encourage my children to follow in my footsteps.
- I deserve whatever bad things happen to me.
- The sex trade life is easy and glamorous.
- Prostitution was my role to play in society.
- My teacher believed me when I told her the man was naked in his car.
- Only bad girls get into trouble.
- Women who are beat up by men actually enjoy it.
- Police don't mistreat people.
- Drugs are yummy.
- Prostitutes live really well and are happy with their work.
- The street is very pretty because children sleep there.

My Dream Day

Tomorrow when I wake up I will feel safe and good about myself all day. I will not have to walk down the street and see the pain in children's eyes that was once in mine. Parents will love and respect their children so the streets will not even be an option for them to have to encounter. Our children will be happy as they should be and grow healthy and strong.

Experiential delegate, Creative Writing Declaration Workshop

After reviewing the lies the youth were then asked to write about their ideal life; to imagine that they woke up this morning and life was perfect:

- I can't imagine. It's hard to do.
- I will live in a happy big house helping young people. Every one who has had a dark past will live there. They will be com-

fortable and loved. It will be an open home for whites, blacks, fat, small, pretty, ugly, for the whole world. There will be so many good things: university and earning money to maintain the house, studying medicine, special consultations for the children.

- To work, study and have lots of friends. To help others who need and to thank God for bringing me to this life and to have faith and hope for these opportunities that won't be lost.
- I want to help the street kids and give them things they've never been given. To talk to all of them that they won't lose hope.
- I want my own place and to support myself.

The facilitator of the Creative Writing declaration workshop commented at the end of this exercise "When I did this [ideal life] exercise in a grade 12 class here in Canada, all the boys wanted cars. No one here asked for things."

I'm not a slut, or a nymphomaniac, drug addict or disease infected. I'm a 16-year-old female. I feel and have emotions just like everybody else. I'm human and I will not be forbidden or forgotten. I am a part of society. I may not fit into your lifestyle but you don't fit into mine, and it's your society that makes my lifestyle a reality. It's your grandfathers, fathers, sons, nephews, brothers, and grandsons that keep my lifestyle a reality and a business. It's your daughters, sisters, nieces, and granddaughters that feel the need to work the streets for whatever reasons. But when you drive down the track don't think we're just whores. If it were someone that you love and care about, are they just whores?

By A Human Being
Creative Writing Workshop
Finding Voice: The Youth Declarations

Part 2: Voices From the Shadows

Voices From the Shadows took place during the last two days of the Summit. It was comprised of four forums:

Forum 2	*Voices From the Shadows*: The Summit Forum Workshops
Forum 3	*Merging Voices*: The Community Form
Forum 4	*Into the Light*: The Public Forum
Forum 5	*Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum

Forum 1, Finding Voice, provided experiential delegates with the opportunity to find their individual and collective voice through a variety of media. Now, during the last two days of the Summit, experiential delegates could communicate their declarations to representatives of government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. Attendance of non-experiential delegates at Forums 2, 3 and 5 was by invitation only, and they were not open to the public or the media.

Forum 2 *Voices From the Shadows:* The Summit Forum Workshops

Overview

First and foremost, the purpose of Forum 2 *Voices From the Shadows*, was for non-experiential delegates to hear the voices of the young people with experience of sexual exploitation as children or youth. A moving presentation began Forum 2, with each team of experiential delegates coming forward with their declaration: first theatre, then visual arts, music, creative writing, and finally the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.*

Following these presentations, three workshops focusing on the Summit themes and youth declarations were undertaken over two days. During these workshops the youth communicated their recommendations and concerns. The non-experiential and experiential workshop members worked together to develop commitments that would respond to the recommendations contained in the youth declarations.

Methodology

Approximately 120 people attended the Summit forum workshops. In order to facilitate workshop discussions, the group was divided, initially, into five sub-groups of approximately 20 people each. Each workshop included a mixture of delegates, policy makers and legislators including youth facilitators with experience in the commercial sex trade plus a support team of other experiential delegates, translators as required, professional facilitators and a recorder to take notes of the workshop activities. Each workshop focused on one of the themes of the Summit:

> My parents were peasants. I have no profession. All I have to sell is my body. My daughter didn't die of hunger. I didn't give her away. Through my work she can go to school.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, South America*

- Prevention
- Risk Management and Harm Reduction
- Emergency and Crisis Situations
- Healing and Connecting
- Advocacy and Public Attitudes.

At the beginning of Day 2 'Risk Management' was deleted from the themes to reflect the experiential delegates' experience and belief that the risks involved in the sex trade cannot be managed.

As well, 'Harm Reduction' was fused into 'Emergency and Crisis Situations,' because members of the 'Harm Reduction' workshop felt that their topic was inextricably linked with 'Emergency and Crisis Situations.'

The job of the non-experiential delegates was to listen and to provide information and support without being defensive or obstructive. The environment created by the facilitators encouraged the free flow of discussion of solutions rather than a justification of the *status quo*.

The Planning Committee of the Summit designed the substantive content of the facilitation process. This was placed within a fourstage format outlined by the Canadian Institute of Cultural Affairs:

1. Objective – getting the facts
2. Reflective – noticing people's personal responses, associations, emotions to what is being discussed and described
3. Interpretative – including the meaning, values, significance, and implications of what is being discussed and described, and
4. Decisional – the resolutions for the future.

The facilitators ensured that everyone was respectful and that everyone used their expertise to help achieve the goals of the workshops. Some facilitators, to give everyone a turn to speak, utilized a talking stick or rounds. Flip charts were also used to record issues and solutions. These sheets of paper were taped to the walls so that they could be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Each workshop room also had a sign that said:

Suggestions for Creating a Safe Environment for Participation

1. There are no right or wrong answers.
2. Everyone has the right to speak without being interrupted.
3. We respect every person's opinion.
4. It is okay for people to get up and leave.
5. What is said in this room stays in the room.

Format

In each of the three workshops that took place over the two days the facilitators assisted the group in focusing on specific questions and creating solutions or recommendations.

In workshop #1 – the **vision** – the delegates focused on:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?

The outcomes of workshop #1 were:

- issue identification, and
- articulation of the vision.

In workshop #2 – the **obstacles** – the delegates focused on:

- What stops us from achieving the vision?
- What strengths do we have to help us?

The outcomes of workshop #2 were:

- identification of barriers and how to address them, and
- identification of strengths and how to optimize them e.g. involvement of experiential delegates in developing solutions.

In workshop #3 – **action** – the delegates focused on next steps:

- How do we achieve the vision?
- Who is going to do what and when will it be done?

The outcomes of workshop #3 were:

- a series of recommendations, and
- an action plan.

Team Results

The facilitator led the groups through the Vision–Obstacles–Action format. A summary of actions was posted on the plenary meeting room walls for all delegates to see. Please see Phase 3 INTO THE LIGHT: Commitments for Change in this report for a summary of the commitments made during Voices from the Shadows.

At the closing plenary of Voices From the Shadows, Sandra Griffin, member of the Planning Committee for the Summit, read the following poem, calling to people to accept responsibility for all children, no matter what their background, heritage, life experience, or situation.

A Commitment to Children

We accept responsibility for children
who put chocolate fingers everywhere
who like to be tickled
who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants
who erase holes in their math workbooks
who can never find their shoes.

And we accept responsibility for those
who stare at photographers from behind barbed wires
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of
sneakers
who have never counted potatoes
who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead
who never go to the circus
who live in an X-rated world.

We accept responsibility for children
who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions
who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money
who cover themselves with Band-Aids and sing off key
who slurp their soup.

And we accept responsibility for those
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them
who watch their parents watch them die
who can't find any bread to steal
who don't have any rooms to clean up
whose pictures aren't on anyone's dresser
whose monsters are real.

We accept responsibility for children
who spend their allowance before Tuesday
who throw temper tantrums in the grocery store
and pick at their food
who like ghost stories
who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never
rinse the tub
who get visits from the tooth fairy
who don't like to be kissed in front of the car pool
who squirm in church and scream in the phone
whose tears sometimes make us
laugh and whose
smiles can make us cry.

And we accept responsibility for those whose
nightmares come in the daytime
who never eat anything
who have never seen a dentist
who aren't spoiled by anybody
who go to bed hungry and cry
themselves to sleep
who live and move but have no being.

And we accept responsibility for children who
want to be carried
and for those we never give up on
and for those who don't ask for a second chance
for those we smother
and for those who will grab the hand
of anybody kind enough to offer it.

Author Unknown

Forum 3 *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum

Overview

Forum 3, *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum, ran parallel to Part 2, Voices From the Shadows. It was by invitation only and took place at City Hall in Victoria. All of the experiential and non-experiential delegates were invited from communities within British Columbia (BC).

The focus of the forum was on youth sexual exploitation in BC. Its purpose was to bring together concerned individuals and organizations in BC in order to share experiences and ideas, and to create prevention and education strategies and explore mechanisms for mobilizing youth in their own BC communities.

Delegates

There were approximately 41 BC youth at *Merging Voices*. Of these, approximately one-half were experiential youth, either currently involved in the sex trade or who had been involved in the past. The other half were mainstream youth who had no experience in the sex trade but were in some way involved in issues related to sexual exploitation as, for example, peer counsellors at high schools. The youth were chosen by organizations within their own communities. The criteria for selection was that the youth had identified themselves as interested in the issue of sexual exploitation of children and youth in the commercial sex trade. Other delegates included community agencies, police, parents, and municipal and provincial government representatives.

Methodology

Merging Voices combined presentations with workshops. In addition to these presentations and workshops, there was a performance and facilitated discussion by the drama group TCO^2 (Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others). A youth was Co-chair of the Community Forum and all the workshops had a youth co-facilitator. Half of all participants at the forum were youth.

Although *Merging Voices* took place in a different venue than the International Summit and the focus was slightly different, many steps were taken to weave together the international delegates and the *Merging Voices* delegates. These included:

- Inviting international delegates to come at any time to any of the *Merging Voices* presentation workshops.
- Hosting a social event for all delegates on the evening before the forum began.
- Tailoring the *Merging Voices* agenda to match the Summit program.
- Inviting the international experiential delegates to present the working draft of the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* to the BC youth.
- Paying for BC delegates' dinners so that they could eat with the international experiential delegates on the first evening of Part 2 of the Summit.

Because *Merging Voices* took place over two days rather than five, it was not feasible to review all of the major themes explored at the Summit. Instead, the planning committee chose Prevention and Education as the focus for the forum. A wide variety of topics were also covered during the presentations and workshops.

The process for *Merging Voices* was designed to be linear, with the presentation workshops culminating in the Prevention and Education workshops and the plenary session on the second day.

Merging Voices opened with a welcoming ceremony and blessing as well as opening addresses by Mayor Bob Cross of Victoria and the Minister of Attorney General, Ujjal Dosanjh.

Experiential delegates from the International Summit attended on Day 1 and presented the working draft of the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* This presentation was very well received and there was over two hours of intense discussion between all participants after the formal presentation was completed.

The purpose of each workshop that took place during the two days of *Merging Voices* is outlined below. Because *Merging Voices* was a parallel forum with a slightly different focus than the rest of the Summit, a separate report on *Merging Voices* is being published through the BC Ministry of Attorney General, Community Justice Branch. Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Sophie Mas at (604) 775-2673. Outlined below are the workshops that took place.

Urban Aboriginal Youth – Mechanisms for Change

There are 60,000 people of aboriginal ancestry in Vancouver, 36,000 of them under the age of 25. The cities in Canada are the *de facto* "largest reserves" in the Country.

This workshop explored mechanisms that help facilitate Aboriginal youth, in the urban setting, to transition from street life to more stable living arrangement. As well, the workshop explored mechanisms that are needed for Aboriginal youth to ensure their involvement in the planning and development of youth services and community, starting with a more stable lifestyle and a stable transition from the street.

Building your Community: Inside Out

This workshop was designed as an interactive session to teach the basics of community development. Topics included identifying key players, building partnerships and local leadership, and developing community-based action plans to address the issues of the sexual exploitation of children and youth in prostitution.

The overarching theme of this workshop was communication: between people within communities, and between communities.

Advocacy and Peer Support

This workshop looked at peer support models and programmes. The presenters talked about advocacy and working with non-profit organisations on local, national and international levels.

Involving the Media

This workshop focused on why it sometimes feels that the media are not paying attention to your issues and how to build a relationship with the media to get your issues better coverage. The workshop also addressed how to react when there is more media attention than you want.

The Dynamics of Youth Sexual Exploitation and Child Abuse

In this workshop the facilitators discussed the relationship between child abuse and sexually exploited youth. This was examined in terms of childhood trauma, the cycle of violence, the stages of sexual abuse, and society and systemic issues.

Involving Youth

In this workshop, participants explored the meaning of "genuine" youth involvement. Participants talked about why and how youth can and should be involved and the barriers to involvement.

Prevention and Education Workshops

Day 2 of *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum, was designed as a working session where experiential youth delegates and other youth and adult delegates could break into small working groups to focus on Prevention and Education issues. These working groups were formed during the morning session with the goal of identifying five areas for change and presenting this at the Provincial Round Table at the close of the day. The process was designed so that the experiential youth would work with the other delegates to come up with solutions. However, some of the youth felt that they had not being given an adequate opportunity to be heard. Consequently, an all-youth committee was formed to present the issues that were of foremost concern to the youth.

At the end of the day the all-youth committee along with the other small groups met to exchange ideas.

One experiential delegate stated that the forum had given her an opportunity to close one book in her life, and begin to write a new book on healing. Coincidentally, the experiential delegate and the police officer in her group knew each other from when she was on the street. They stood up to make a presentation together. The police officer stood quietly as support while the young woman spoke of how much they had learned from each other during *Merging*

Voices. It was a very emotional and moving presentation. She closed her presentation with the following:

> When I came here two days ago, I was a street kid. I was afraid of the police. Now, I've made a friend and closed a chapter in my life. I'm opening a new book.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, BC*

Forum 4 *Into the Light:* The Public Forum

Overview

Forum 4 *Into The Light*: The Public Forum was held at the Victoria Conference Centre. It provided an opportunity for a group of delegates to present their declarations, including media representatives, through all the mediums in which they had been working. The written *Declaration and Agenda for Action* was reviewed, the two-act play performed, the percussion music performance was presented, visual art was on display and creative writing pieces were read aloud to the audience.

> We would like all of you to try on our shoes, to try to know what we feel, to know that we are a part of you.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Canada*

The moderator was Sandra Griffin, member of the Summit Planning Committee. The co-facilitator was Jacqueline Ramdatt. The presenters included:

- The Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Summit Co-chair
- Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair
- Experiential delegates: International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth
- Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography
- Enrico Esguerra, ECPAT, Canada
- Amihan Abueva, ECPAT, Philippines
- Helene Sackstein, Coordinator of the International Focal Point Program on the Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Judith Karp, Deputy Attorney General, State of Israel Ministry of Justice in her capacity as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In addition to the presenters listed above performances were done by the youth drama group TCO^2 – Taking Care of Ourselves/Taking Care of Others.

Methodology

The moderator and co-facilitator opened the forum, with the moderator, Sandra Griffin, offering a Chinese proverb:

> *When there is light in the child, there will be*
> *beauty in the soul.*
>
> *When there is beauty in the soul, there will be*
> *harmony in the home.*
>
> *When there is harmony in the home, there will*
> *be order in the nation.*
>
> *When there is order in the nation, there will be*
> *peace in the world.*

Speeches were then given by each of two of the panel members, alternating with performances or presentations by experiential delegates or TCO^2.

An information fair in the Conference Centre foyer provided materials for public distribution.

Comments

Over 400 people attended the Public Forum; there was standing room only. The atmosphere was respectful and the audience did not take photographs when asked not to.

When the experiential delegates presented their declarations in each of the five mediums, their pain was evident but so was their joy and hope. There was a standing ovation and clapping when the experiential delegates presented the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* As the forum proceeded the dynamic between the experiential delegates and the audience became more and more open, more emotional and more supportive.

One delegate read her poetry and then thanked the audience for listening. Another delegate from South America wore a mask that she had made in the visual arts workshop. She explained that the mask was a symbol of her life. By day she is a mother of four young children and at night she puts on a mask and goes out to be a prostitute. Then, in a dramatic moment, she took off her mask and sang:

A Song

Last night I had a dream
A very beautiful dream
So much so
I thought I would never wake up.

I dreamt I was a delicate flower
But weak, so weak
That I could no longer hold myself up.

I was a flower
One of many in the garden
Drying up under the elements
For lack of natural sustenance.

Suddenly someone came
And took pity on me
Gave me some water
And I began to be strong and beautiful.

This song is dedicated to those who made it possible for me to be here, because now that my ideas are clear, I know I am not here in vain as I have become stronger day by day.

Female experiential delegate, Peru.

At the end of her song, everyone was cheering and crying.

At the end of the forum, the moderator was planning to open the floor for questions and comments from the audience. However, this never happened. Instead, even though the forum had run overtime, the youth began to spontaneously come up and share their stories.

Forum 5: *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum

> As you see, we have expressed ourselves through a variety of mediums. You saw our pain and suffering but also hope. You may have preconceived ideas of your roles and responsibilities. Let it go. Let it go. Hear the young people. And, reconsider your preconceived ideas.
>
> *Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.*

Overview

At the Elected Representatives Forum the team of experiential delegates that prepared the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, presented it to a group of senior Canadian officials, both provincial and federal, and international government officials.

The people who hear your stories cannot return to their same reality because they will be so changed by your stories. They will walk away different.

Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.

Methodology

The forum opened with comments by Summit Co-chairs Senator Landon Pearson and Cherry Kingsley and focused on the need to provide a venue for the voice of sexually exploited children and youth to be heard.

The experiential delegates primarily responsible for the drafting of the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action* read it aloud to the delegates. The *Declaration* was not distributed in advance in order to ensure that the attendees listened to the youth rather than read the *Declaration*. The atmosphere was formal, with the experiential delegates choosing to sit at a head table to read the *Declaration*.

The presentation by the delegates was thoughtful and powerful and, as their presentation began, the strength of their voices began to have an impact on the room. As each experiential delegate took their turn to read a section of the *Declaration*, many also spoke to their own life, their story. The voice of the youth was heard, and many at the forum wept.

Once the youth had finished presenting the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*, the moderator opened the floor to questions and comments.

Many of the elected representatives at the forum took the opportunity to make a clear commitment to the youth and the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*. The Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) stated that she would take on the responsibility herself, in the name of, and on behalf of the Government of Canada, to ensure that the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* was heard.

At the close of Forum 5, each participant was given a blank piece of paper and an envelope. Each participant took a moment to write a commitment on the paper, seal it in the envelope and address it to themselves. The envelopes were collected and will be mailed back to the participants in six months.

Comments

During the discussion that followed the tabling of the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* both the experiential delegates and the elected representatives focused on the need for concrete action, especially the need to include the youth as participants in the setting up of programs. Finally, Cherry Kingsley pointed out that a trust has now been made in those who came to this forum. The experiential delegates have disclosed abuse and now those who have heard their stories are obligated to do something. The commitments that arose from this forum are listed in this report in Phase 3, INTO THE LIGHT: Commitments for Change.

THE LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED HERE THROUGH THIS SUMMIT:

1. HOW PRESUMPTUOUS WE ARE in thinking we know what is best for the youth.
2. HOW INSULAR WE ARE in our thinking. Most people aren't aware of what is occurring because they think, "if it doesn't happen on my doorstep, it doesn't exist."
3. HOW VERY IGNORANT WE ARE of the horrors these children are suffering; ignorant of the fact that poverty is not always the culprit.
4. HOW INSENSITIVE WE ARE to how much discrimination hurts our children, in a society that pays more attention to animals than to our children.
5. HOW MISERLY WE ARE in extending our care and attention to these children.
6. HOW ARROGANT WE ARE in thinking that because we are in a position of power, that we are entitled to abuse our children.
7. HOW NAÏVE WE ARE in thinking that if we close our eyes, the problem will go away.

Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography

Lessons Learned from the Summit

Over the course of five days, the Summit planners and organizers watched eighteen months of hard work come to life. And, as the Summit proceeded, there were ongoing opportunities for learning. Overall, the Summit's planning and implementation was a success. However, as with any large undertaking – and especially one that has no precedent – there were invariably situations that required shifting the expectations and strategies that had been preplanned.

> I saw that you suffered when I told you my story. Thank you. Now I know I have worth.
>
> *Female experiential delegate, Bolivia*

Outlined below are lessons that the planners and organizers of the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth learned during the five days of the Summit. The lessons did not necessarily result from negative experiences; some were a reinforcement of earlier perceptions or ideas, and some arose from unexpected, but positive, events. Most lessons, however, simply underscored the complexities of planning and co-ordinating a unique, international event.

Organization and Planning

What Happened

- There was a paid full-time Summit co-ordinator, a paid part-time project manager, a paid part-time volunteer co-ordinator and additional paid support for conference management and writing. As well, there was a volunteer chair of the Planning Committee.

Lesson Learned

- An event like this is very complex to organize and requires an enormous amount of time. In order to undertake the level of detail that organizing an event like this requires there must be a solid basis of staff for planning including **full-time** paid administrators and co-ordinators for all aspects of Summit planning. These individuals must have strong organization and implementation skills.

What Happened

- During the Summit, the Planning Committee met every morning at 7:30 a.m. to de-brief on the previous day's events as well as any activities that had taken place or concerns that had arisen during the night. Because this de-briefing was in an open area, it often included any interested experiential delegates who happened to be around at that time.

Lesson Learned

- This de-briefing session was essential to the success of the Summit. It enabled the Planning Committee to quickly make changes to the day's schedule or address any concerns that had been raised the previous day. The informal inclusion of experiential delegates reinforced that they were an integral part of the Summit's planning and implementation.

> Media are the critical link in public awareness. They can affect public policy, turn a skirmish into a war, and give voice to the voiceless. They are much more than dispassionate observers; their choice of interview subjects and style of presentation are position statements, not neutral information.
>
> *Jody Paterson, Editorial Page Editor, Victoria Times Colonist, Media Co-ordinator, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*

What Happened

- A media co-ordinator was a member of the Planning Committee. Because the media co-ordinator was a long-time experienced award winning journalist, as well as a media representative, she brought her experience, expertise and credibility to the structure around media relations.

Lesson Learned

- The media co-ordinator was critical to the success of the Summit. Having a media co-ordinator ensured that the privacy of the experiential delegates was respected while still enabling media to gather the information that it needed in order to report on the Summit.

What Happened

- Two co-rapporteurs were hired to document the Summit. As the rapporteurs could not attend all concurrent sessions, volunteer recorders were enlisted to attend workshops and some plenary sessions. As well, the rapporteurs worked with the experiential delegates in preparing the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action.*

Lesson Learned

- Accurately documenting a Summit of this size and complexity is a substantial undertaking. Initially only one rapporteur was to cover the Summit; she alone would not have been able to give adequate coverage to the Summit proceedings. The co-rapporteurs should not be assigned to specific workshops, but should have been free to attend a wide variety of workshops in order to gain a flavour of all activities, be up-to-date on changing workshop formats, and ensure that volunteer recorders were adequately supported. Volunteer recorders should be skilled at note-taking and should receive clear direction regarding what type of information to gather. There should be a de-briefing with volunteer recorders at the close of the Summit.

Timing

What Happened

- The experiential delegates were both physically and emotionally tired after Part 1 of the Summit, Finding Voice. The three days of Part 1 had placed heavy demands on them. Unfortunately, there was no scheduled break for the experiential delegates between Part 1 and Part 2. Consequently, they were quite exhausted when Part 2, Voices From the Shadows started on day four. This resulted in a certain amount of absenteeism from the workshops on the part of the experiential delegates.

Lesson Learned

- It is strongly recommended that in Summits of this nature, the experiential delegates be given some opportunity to rest between Part 1 and Part 2.

What Happened

- *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum took place over two days.

Lessons Learned

- Two days was not really sufficient to explore the themes of the forum and ensure that all participants felt that their voice was being heard.

What Happened

- There was occasional confusion regarding how interpretation or translation was going to occur. As well, there was some feedback that not all of the interpretation was adequate.

Lesson Learned

- Organizing translation and interpretation is very complex in a multi-lingual Summit. Professional translators are essential. The translators should be involved in the planning of the Summit as they can provide tips and planning advice.

Structure of Plenary Sessions, Workshops and Forums

What Happened

- The informal workshop sessions were physically restructured so that only experiential delegates sat in an inner circle while all other delegates sat around them in an outer circle. This enabled the experiential delegates to tell their stories without interruption and without comment by the other delegates. As well, the Summit organizers accepted the recommendation of the experiential delegates to restructure some sessions along language and gender lines. Finally, in Forum 3 *Merging Voices* when the youth expressed concern that they were not being heard, the agendá was altered so that some youth could form their own committee and they were given both the physical space to meet and time to speak once they were ready.

Lesson Learned

- It is essential that the planned processes are flexible and able to respond to the needs of the experiential delegates.

What Happened

- Forum 4 *Into the Light*: The Public Forum went overtime. This was due, in part, to the number of speakers and to the fact that some of the non-experiential speakers spoke at length.

Lesson Learned

- Invited speakers should be given clear guidelines as to how long they can speak when the forum is strictly time-limited. As well, consideration must be given to limiting the number of no-experiential speakers at any given forum.

What Happened

- The number of experiential delegates that attended Forum 4 *Into the Light*: The Public Forum in order to present the various *Declarations* was greater than expected. Consequently there was not enough room on the raised platform area at the front of the room leaving no choice for the experiential delegates but to sit in the audience. This created the visual message that the experiential delegates were not really as important as the non-experiential speakers who sat on the raised platform.

Lesson Learned

- As much as possible, verify the number of experiential delegates who will be attending various presentations.

What Happened

- There was an unstructured social gathering planned for the evening before *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum. Unfortunately, this social gathering did not appear to create contact between the *Merging Voices* BC youth delegates and the experiential delegates to the Summit. Attendees tended to associate with the people that they had arrived with. This may have been due, in part, to the fact that the BC delegates were very tired from the travelling and left the gathering early, whereas the Summit delegates arrived quite late.

Lesson Learned

- When planning events to bring people together, try to anticipate the impact that travel schedules or different meeting schedules may have.

What Happened

- Experiential delegates were given the choices of five different media through which to declare their experiences and their vision for change.

Lesson Learned

- The different mediums available to the experiential delegates in which to express their experiences and vision for change (visual arts, music arts, creative writing, written declaration, theatre arts) were critical to ensuring that all of the experiential delegates were able to express their voice.

What Happened

- Both non-experiential and experiential youth attended *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum. Many non-experiential youth were sincerely interested in finding tools to help experiential youth.

Lesson Learned

- Mixing experiential youth and non-experiential youth at *Merging Voices* was not successful. There was no conflict between the two groups but neither did mean4ingful dialogue take place or any bonds form between individuals. These two groups did not identify with one another. Although the non-experiential youth were sincere, they could not empathize with the experiential youth.

What Happened

- *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum was held in a different venue than the International Summit.

Lesson Learned

- Having different venues for *Merging Voices* and the other Summit forums, created an emotional and physical distance between delegates. Many BC delegates felt left out. If *Merging Voices* had been more integrated into the larger Summit, however, the result may have been that BC issues would have dominated the agenda.

Role of Experiential Delegates

What Happened

- Experiential youth were extensively involved in the planning of the Summit.

Lesson Learned

- Experiential youth must be involved in the planning that precedes the event, and wherever possible, in the ongoing planning as the event unfolds.

What Happened

- The experiential youth had three days in which to meet during Forum 1 *Finding Voice*: The Youth Declarations. The experiential youth in *Merging Voices*: The Community Forum did not have an opportunity to meet together before meeting with the non-experiential youth and other delegates.

Lesson Learned

- Youth need time and space to create a sense of community and a feeling of solidarity amongst themselves. This worked well at the International Summit where they had three days on their own before non-experiential delegates came to listen to them. By the time the non-experiential delegates arrived, the youth had a clear sense of what they wanted to communicate, whereas the youth at *Merging Voices* had not had that opportunity.

Role of the Volunteers

What Happened

- The Summit utilized over 100 volunteers. A paid part-time Co-ordinator undertook the enormous task of co-ordinating the volunteers.

Lesson Learned

- There should be a full-time co-ordinator available to, amongst other things, arrange for, manage and schedule the volunteers and solicit donations. It is essential that the volunteers be brought into the planning early in the process, as soon as the program outline is completed.

Services for the Experiential Delegates

What Happened

- The original plan was to close the hospitality room at 9:00 p.m.. However, since many of the experiential delegates were up late in the evening and needed a place for food and relaxation, the Planning Committee arranged for volunteers to keep it open 24-hours a day after the first day.

Lesson Learned

- In a Summit like this, a hospitality room is required 24-hours a day.

Follow-up for Experiential Delegates after the Summit

What Happened

- The Planning Committee focused its fundraising and event planning specifically on the International Summit.

Lesson Learned

- The Summit planners needed to focus on more concrete actions and outcomes so that when the Summit was over, the next steps were already in place. If possible, try to procure some funding for outcomes in advance.

What Happened

- Foreign Affairs has committed to one year of international follow-up funding to be managed by local non-governmental organizations.

Lessons Learned

- Planners need to anticipate and more systematically support the immediate needs of experiential youth post-Summit.

It is essential to have follow-up for the experiential youth when they return to their home community. For the majority of the youth delegates, this Summit was an emotionally cathartic experience. For many of them it was the first time to tell their stories. As well, the very fact that the Summit occurred, raised expectations for the experiential youth that services would be available to them and that, in some way, their life would change.

To bring the youth to Victoria, provide them with hotel accommodation, food, clothing and medical care and to openly express support and concern for their situation and then return them to their community without any follow-up is both immoral and unethical. If follow-up to the Summit does not in some way ameliorate the circumstances of the youth that attended, then the youth have been exploited to serve the purposes of the Summit, but they themselves have not been served. In the words of one Summit organizer, "if we can't help these youth, what do we think we are doing?"

Many of us will be returning to the same world that has neglected, abused, and abandoned us. But if we stay committed and connected, if we support each other, change will come.

Cherry Kingsley, Co-chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

Phase 3 INTO THE LIGHT

Commitments for Change

We need safe shelters, a cup of coffee, and to talk to someone who's been there and understands.

Calgary: Male, began prostitution at age 8, consultation participant

I would like help with some capital so I can start a clothing store or some business. About maybe $3000 because in my country that is a fortune. I need enough money to open the store and help my children. I would be the happiest woman in the world. To have my own store. So, I would not have to work at night anymore. That is my dream.

Female experiential delegate, Bolivia

Overview

> The *Declaration and Agenda for Action* must be adopted and implemented in its entirety because without all the pieces in place, children and youth the world over will continue to suffer sexual exploitation and its many inter-related issues and impacts.
>
> *Preamble, Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*

The written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth,* endorsed by the experiential delegates of OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: The International Summit Of Sexually Exploited Youth, was clear in its call for immediate and productive action on its recommendations. Likewise, the powerful messages of hopes and dreams incorporated into the artistic declarations represent yet another call to action. Action has been immediate, both at the Summit and in the weeks following.

This section outlines:

1. the commitments for action made at the Summit,
2. an itemization of the communication strategies and education materials resulting from the Summit that must be prepared, and
3. implementation of commitments to date.

Commitments for Action Made at the Summit

In Part 2 of the Summit, Voices From the Shadows, non-experiential delegates watched, read, and listened to the declarations of the experiential youth delegates. They were provided with some very concrete issues and recommendations, which they were then able to discuss further with experiential delegates in the Summit Forum Workshops.

However, even though the voices may have come out from the shadows, even though the experiential youth were given voice, their light may only shine brightly for a brief period of time unless the commitment to action made at the Summit is fulfilled.

Thus, the commitments made in the various forums of the International Summit are provided here for review by those who made them, and by those to whom the commitments were made.

Commitments from Forum 2 *Voices from the Shadows*: the Summit Forum Workshops

There were many commitments to action made at the Summit Forum Workshops. Because the majority of the non-experiential delegates in the workshops were from British Columbia, the commitments captured on paper during the workshops focused on action in British Columbia. These steps however, are only the beginning, both for British Columbia and the other provinces and countries that attended the Summit.

The commitments to action made by the non-experiential delegates in *Voices From the Shadows*: The Summit Forum Workshops are summarized in the table on the following pages.

Harm Reduction	Healing and Connecting
1. Incorporate the Summit *Declaration* into the Ministry for Children and Families' Youth Strategy (British Columbia). 2. Incorporate the Summit *Declaration* into the British Columbia Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report. 3. Develop a youth participation strategy involving representatives of the International Summit's youth delegates. 4. Involve youth in the development of services funding announced by the Minister for Children and Families (British Columbia). Services could include, safe housing for sexually exploited youth, rental subsidies, outreach and support workers. Elements of these services include creating safe environments for youth participation and facilitating the incorporation of youth voices and experiences.	1. Educate and support peers to do the work needed to heal sexually exploited children and youth after exiting, including: • psychological counselling • health education and support (e.g. condoms) • support for legal issues • treatment and prevention for substance abuse • dealing with violence • money management • training to learn new skills for jobs. 2. Educate police and authorities in awareness and sensitivity. 3. Enforce laws on human rights. 4. All the above must be done with the recognition that healing takes a long time.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes	Prevention
1. The Children's Commissioner (British Columbia) will promote the Summit Declarations in public reports and with the media.	1. Fund programs through NGOs to train exiting sex trade workers to support peers.
2. Victim Services: The Attorney General (British Columbia) has agreed to use the Summit Declarations as a "lens" through which to examine the child abuse and neglect policy that is under development.	2. Save the Children Canada will share their peer-training methodologies.
3. An NGO has agreed to take the Summit Declarations to the National Network for Runaway Youth Symposium in the United States.	3. When funds are made available for programs, include sex trade workers in decisions regarding dollar allocations.
4. Covenant House will promote the Summit Declarations in their partnership with the Vancouver Grizzlies NBA team.	4. Every agency should connect with street youth to discuss how to implement the Summit Declarations.
5. The United Nations will share the Summit Declarations with 41 international NGOs.	5. Save the Children will return to Vancouver and discuss use of resources with street youth.
6. An NGO from Newfoundland will introduce the Declarations as part of the training for probation officers.	6. Make a proposal to the Federal government for funding to develop youth leadership internationally. Youth leadership programs need to be supported by strong safety nets.
7. The RCMP will introduce the Summit Declarations to police who work on the streets.	7. The British Columbia Ministry for Children and Families should promote the benefits of such models as the *Hawaii Healthy Start* model to other governments.
8. Save the Children Canada will share their peer training model and experience with other NGOs.	8. Make a proposal to the provincial and Federal governments for funding for public education campaigns led by the youth delegates from the Summit. Recommend that the Summit Co-chairs take the lead.
9. A vehicle currently in place is *Stolen Innocence*, a national campaign aimed at stopping the sexual exploitation of children.	9. The Society for Children and Youth of British Columbia will promote the Summit Declarations through its newsletter and other existing strategies.
10. Street Kids International will incorporate the Declarations into their own policy and take the Summit Declarations to agencies they work with in other countries.	10. The British Columbia Council for Families will share the Summit Declarations through its networks.

Commitments from Forum 5 *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum

Attendees to *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum, gave positive responses directly to the youth team presenting the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, as to how the various levels of provincial and federal government planned to assist in the distribution and publicizing of the *Declaration* and implementation of some of the recommendations.

The commitments made by the elected representatives at *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum are summarized in the table on the following page.

What I'd like to say to politicians is that prostitution is a symptom of the evil, the disease in society's soul. There is a disease in society. They are the only people who can heal society. They need to heal it from up there.

Female experiential delegate, Montreal, Canada

Government Organization	Commitment
Ministry of Attorney General, British Columbia	1. Look to delegates from British Columbia to provide advice on how to deal with the sexual exploitation of youth. 2. Will continue to push for the decriminalization of sexually exploited youth.
Secretary of State (Status of Women)	1. Pulling together a Steering Committee with the tourism industry and media to assist in educating the general community and eradicating stereotypes around child and youth prostitution.
Department of Indian Affairs, Government of Canada	1. There is now an Aboriginal Plan for Action that addresses the issue of keeping First Nations children in school. 2. The Department representative committed to a First Nations Summit on the sexual exploitation of children and youth.
Ministry of Social Services, Saskatchewan	1. Has a five-point plan for children who are sexually exploited. The Ministry will evaluate their plan against the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*. Their current policy states that sexually exploited youth are victims, not offenders. As well, the Ministry has a new child abuse committee.

Communications Strategies and Education Tools

> We believe that education is vital in our struggle against the sexual exploitation of children and youth.
>
> *Agenda for Action, Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*

The Committee charged with formulating and producing the various documentation pieces resulting from the Sexually Exploited Youth Project envisions that all pieces will have an educational purpose. They will fit together into an educational "tool kit," with components that can be used independently of each other or combined to form a curriculum.

The communication and education tools will be distributed to governments of the countries represented at the Summit as well as to the United Nations, UNICEF, the Children's Institute of the Organization of American States, ECPAT, and other international organizations and agencies and targeted groups (e.g. tourism, boards of trade).

Currently it is envisioned that this tool kit will be comprised of the following items:

- *Voices From the Shadows: Canadian Children and Youth Speak Out About Their Lives as Street Sex Trade Workers: Report on the Canadian Regional Consultations*, printed and distributed January 1998
- *International Voices From the Shadows: Children and Youth of the Americas Speak Out About Their Lives as Street Sex Trade Workers (International Summary)*: Draft version printed and distributed February 1998. Inclusion of feedback from youth participants of the Brazil and USA: New York regional consultations are to be completed.
- *OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, Final Summit Report* (this document).
- *Declaration Booklet*: A booklet containing the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children*

and Youth, providing a synopsis of its development at the Summit, a flavour of the artistic *Declarations*, and an overview of the Summit model, methodologies and Guiding Principles. Its purpose will be to highlight the *Declaration and the Agenda for Action*, and to act as a "call to action."

- *Declaration Poster*: A poster presenting the endorsed *Youth Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth.* It may also include work from the creative writing workshop and photographs of the art produced by the experiential delegates.
- *Out From the Shadows: Proceedings of the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*: Highlighting the endorsed *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, the Proceedings will summarize the events of and outcomes from the Summit Forums. The Proceedings will be a report to the delegates, both experiential and non-experiential, and a source document for those not in attendance at the Summit but interested in taking action on the Summit recommendations and commitments.
- *Summit Planning Booklet*: A booklet to be used as a tool when planning similar Summits. It will include the Consultation Guidebook, detailed descriptions of the Guiding Principles and their application, and the methodology for creating the Summit.
- *Course Curriculum*: Development of curriculum and material for a post-secondary course on the topic of sexual exploitation of children and youth. Such a course would include the Summit materials listed above as part of the course materials.
- *Video and Guidebook*: Footage of all forums of the Summit was taken, for the purpose of developing video(s). These video(s) may take the form of longer documentaries which spread the message of the Declarations, or shorter educational videos, or both. An educational video could be produced in concert with development of curriculum for a post-secondary level course on the topic of sexual exploitation of children and youth. Accompanied by a guide book for the purposes of facilitating classroom discussion, the educational video could be also be used by teachers outside of the curriculum for which it was developed.

- *Searchable Database and Compact Disk*: Computer technology allows us the opportunity for widespread distribution of the *Youth Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, Summit proceedings, plenary session and workshop transcripts, course materials and video footage. The possibilities are almost endless. Success has been had in the past on similar projects with the inclusion of a compact disk containing extensive material. This was done with the "Stronger Children: Stronger Families" conference with the School of Child and Youth Care (University of Victoria) and course materials on the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
- *Web Site*: A Web Site containing the *Declaration* and information, pictures and video footage of the Summit, provides the opportunity for virtual world wide distribution of information and for the delivery of long distance education courses over the Internet. Requests have been made for a searchable database, either on the Internet or contained on a CD, containing the transcripts of the plenary sessions and workshops.

In addition to the communication strategies and educational materials listed above, the following outcomes were identified by the Committee:

- *Best Practice Model*
- *Capacity Building with Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)*
- *Interns to Work on Indigenous Child Rights*: Funding has been approved for an intern program to provide internships to young adults with organizations working on Indigenous Child Rights. Two internships will be designated for work on the issue of sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Implementation of the Summit Commitments to Date

> **We declare** that the issue of child and youth sexual exploitation must be a global priority and nations must not only hold their neighbours accountable but also themselves.
>
> *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*

A number of actions have already taken place to implement the recommendations of the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, and people are already fulfilling the commitments made to the experiential delegates at the Summit.

The *Declaration and Agenda for Action* is being disseminated in a number of ways. The Honourable Landon Pearson, Senator and Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs has included the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* on her extensive web site on child rights located at **sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/**. The *Declaration and Agenda for Action* is available on the web site in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Background information about the Sexually Exploited Youth Project is also available on the web site in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Senator Pearson is currently exploring ways of bringing the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* through the UN system, and is planning translation of all or part of this Final Summit Report into French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

A booklet and poster containing both the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action* and a representation of the youth declarations in art, music, creative writing, and theatre, is currently being designed. The Victoria-based committee planning communications strategies and education tools resulting from the Summit has identified dissemination of the youth declarations as a priority.

The Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided one year of funding for international follow-up, to be managed by local non-governmental organizations.

During the International Summit for Sexually Exploited Youth, Ofelia Calcetas-Santos made a commitment to the experiential delegates to present the written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* to the UN Commission on Human Rights. On April 16, 1998 she made the following statement to the 54th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights:

> Mr. Chairman,
>
> At this point I would like to bring to your attention a recent development not included in my report but which I consider to be a milestone in addressing the issues involved in my mandate. And that is the Summit of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth, held in Victoria, Canada, from the 7th to the 12th of March. It was attended by a delegation of 36 children and young people, with ages ranging from 16 to 26 years, all of whom had been sexually exploited as minors. They come from Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru and the United States.
>
> The first significant thing about the conference is the process which evolved therefrom in that only the real experts, namely the experiential children and young people who know whereof they speak, were allowed to actively discuss the issues. This structure gave meaning to the mandated right to participation granted to the child under different provisions of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child.* The rest of us played the unfamiliar role of observers and listeners. So we observed, and we listened, and we were astounded at the maturity and intelligence which characterized all the meetings. They bared their souls and opened their hearts in a way they said they never had before, and in so doing, they were able to energize and strengthen each other.
>
> As we listened to the voices of these experiential children and young people, the single question that kept echoing in my mind was "How could they have survived through the horrors they have experienced, and having survived, how could they have remained sane?"
>
> Another thing that I found quite significant and which I consider quite unfathomable given the nightmares each one of them have suffered, is that these children and young people still have their dreams of a better tomorrow. They have devoted much of their time in the conference trying to bring these dreams to fruition through their own *Declaration and Agenda for Action.* I made a

Many, many people profit from the sale of children, including the restaurants, the hotels, the taxis, the tourist industry, the bars and the night-clubs. This is a huge industry. We have to stop them profiting off our children.

Cherry Kingsley, Summit Co-chair

commitment to them to present to you their declaration, and so Mr. Chairman, it is my distinct honour to bring to you their voice through the following declaration:

"We, the sexually exploited child and youth delegates gathered in Victoria, Canada, for Out of the Shadows - International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, declare the following:

"We declare that the term child or youth prostitute can no longer be used. These children and youth are sexually exploited and any language or reference to them must reflect this belief.

"We declare that the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth is a form of child abuse and slavery.

"We declare that all children and youth have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and the threat of abuse, harm or exploitation.

"We declare that the commercial exploitation of children and youth must no longer be financially profitable.

"We declare that all children and youth have the right to know their rights."

"We declare that the issue of child and youth sexual exploitation must be a global priority and nations must not only hold their neighbours accountable but also themselves."

"We declare that governments are obligated to create laws which reflect the principle of zero tolerance of all forms of abuse and exploitation of children and youth."

Mr. Chairman,

The above declaration capsulizes their expectations. We have no choice but to respond to the challenge. By way of starting points, I therefore propose the following:

1. In heeding the validity of the *Declaration's* objection to the use of the term child prostitution, that the title of the mandate be changed to reflect this. I would like to suggest something along the lines of Special Rapporteur on Child Victims of Trafficking and/or Commercial Sexual Exploitation;
2. That the United Nations take the lead in upgrading in its order of priority matters concerning children and in mainstreaming in its activities measures for their protection. For example, the proposed world conference against racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to take place in the year 2001 should include children's concern as an integral component, as they are inevitably among the first victims of any form of discrimination.

3. That improved mechanisms for better coordination within the different departments and agencies of the UN family be institutionalized. For example, there is great potential for collaboration between the Technical Cooperation branch and my mandate to translate some recommendations to dynamic action.

Mr. Chairman,

I am making the above recommendations in the hope that we can at least tell the children that we are doing our part. Thank you very much.

Delegates to the Summit carried with them the contagious enthusiasm sparked by the youth, the tidal wave of voices, of stories, of questions and of answers that flooded over them throughout the Summit. The challenge now is not to forget, not to lose that momentum, to maintain that enthusiasm and not let it be only a product of the moment, to close your eyes and let the wave flood over you again and carry you forward, to follow through on the promises made.

For too long we have been silent. We have never had the opportunity to speak, and be heard. Not until now. And now we have shared. We have worked. We have declared. We believe. Now, we expect! We expect that you will follow through on our declarations, our beliefs and recommendations. Be reminded we have now been involved. The memory of being respected, being heard and being involved is fresh in our memory. If you choose to read the *Declaration and Agenda for Action*, and not act, not accept responsibility, you must and will be held accountable – because, after our light has shone so bright, we refuse to be returned to the shadows.

Male experiential delegate, Calgary, Canada

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth

DECLARATION AND AGENDA FOR ACTION

OF

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Endorsed by the Youth Delegates of:

Out from the Shadows
International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth

March 12, 1998
Victoria, B.C., Canada

PREAMBLE

In Victoria, Canada, on March 12, 1998, 55 delegates with experience as sexually exploited children and youth from across the Americas, presented a Declaration and Agenda for Action to representatives from participating governments, international non-governmental organizations and non-experiential delegates at *Out from the Shadows – First International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*, a five day event which provided a venue for youth to speak.

Leading up to the Summit, a series of consultations with young people in and from the sex trade took place in 16 cities across the Americas. Two youth from each consultation were invited and given the support necessary to attend *Out from the Shadows – International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*. During the first three days, opportunities for the youth delegates to relate their experiences and develop a vision for change came in the form of Theater, Music, Story Telling, Visual Arts and the creation of this Declaration and Agenda for Action

The process which developed the Declaration and Agenda for Action began in a predetermined traditional workshop format which included a draft Declaration and Agenda for Action. Youth present at the workshop tried to frame their experiences and stories into the context of the development of a final document, while non-experiential participants also provided input. It became immediately apparent that what the youth present really needed was a safe place to tell their stories and relate their experiences. Through the tears, pain, experiences, and hopes expressed, themes, beliefs, and recommendations began to emerge.

One of the most important lessons in the development of this Declaration and Agenda for Action is that process is as important as product and must guide us in all efforts towards the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.

The Declaration and Agenda for Action must be adopted and implemented in its entirety because without all the pieces in place, children and youth the world over will continue to suffer sexual exploitation and its many inter-related issues and impacts.

So many times our voices have not been heard. Here, at this Summit, we are united. Our voice is strong. This Declaration presents our united voice, the voices of sexually exploited children and youth. We represent a cross-section of society and we have many stories. Here you will hear our voice.

DECLARATION

We, the sexually exploited child and youth delegates gathered in Victoria, Canada, for *Out From the Shadows – International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth*, declare the following:

We declare that the term child or youth prostitute can no longer be used. These children and youth are sexually exploited and any language or reference to them must reflect this belief.

We declare that the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth is a form of child abuse and slavery.

We declare that all children and youth have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and the threat of abuse, harm or exploitation.

We declare that the commercial exploitation of children and youth must no longer be financially profitable.

We declare that all children and youth have the right to know their rights.

We declare that the issue of child and youth sexual exploitation must be a global priority and nations must not only hold their neighbors accountable but also themselves.

We declare that governments are obligated to create laws which reflect the principle of zero tolerance of all forms of abuse and exploitation of children and youth.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

Our Agenda contains actions that are based on our beliefs. Our beliefs have come from what we have lived. To understand why these actions will work, you must understand our beliefs and the life experiences that have led to these beliefs.

We believe that education is vital in our struggle against the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

We believe that the voices and experiences of sexually exploited children and youth must be heard and be central to the development and implementation of action. We **must** be empowered to help ourselves.

We believe that we have a right to resources that are directed towards sexually exploited children and youth and our very diverse needs.

We believe that as children and youth, we are all vulnerable to sexual exploitation whether male, female, or transgendered.

We believe that our laws must protect us as sexually exploited children and youth and no longer punish us as criminals.

We believe that we are all responsible for our children and youth, yet the issue is not ours alone. Governments, communities and society as a whole must be held accountable for the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

EDUCATION

Education is vital in the struggle against the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

> *"I can't read or write because you chose not to teach me."*
>
> *"I didn't even know what a uterus was."*
>
> *"People look at me and think I'm 'just' a prostitute. I'm also a mom, a sister, a daughter."*

Recommendations

Prevention:
Implement programs to educate all children and youth to recognize potential sexual exploitation and appropriate ways to protect and empower themselves. Educate the community as to who potential sexually exploited children and youth are and who the exploiters are and strategies for intervention.

Harm Reduction:
Sexually exploited children and youth must be aware of their rights and fully educated in terms of health and safety issues.

Emergency Situations:
Professionals such as doctors, counselors and police, who work with crisis situations, must be trained to recognize signs of sexual exploitation and know how to sensitively intervene.

Healing and Connecting:
Sexually exploited children and youth need specialized academic education, as well as training in basic life skills.

Public Attitudes:
The media has a responsibility to educate the public and to eliminate the stereotypes surrounding sexually exploited children and youth.

EXPERIENTIAL INVOLVEMENT

The voices and experiences of sexually exploited children and youth must be heard and be central to the development and implementation of action. We must be empowered to help ourselves.

> *"It is just safe talking here with others from the trade."*
>
> *"Just as an alcoholic can help another alcoholic, youth can really help other youth with similar struggles."*

Recommendations

Prevention:
The experiences of children and youth who have suffered sexual exploitation must be utilized in the formation of preventative programs.

Harm Reduction:
Experiential youth must have the opportunity to develop and implement front-line programs for children and youth involved in the sex industry.

Crisis Situations:
The expertise of the peers of sexually exploited children and youth must be acknowledged and utilized in crisis situations. These youth need to be actively involved in staffing hotlines, outreach programs, crisis counseling, peer mentoring and peer counseling.

Healing and Connecting:
Opportunities must be provided for sexually exploited children and youth to connect with each other and themselves. Support groups facilitated by those who have experienced the sex trade provide a safe environment for healing and connecting.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes:
Experiential children and youth can put faces to the issues. They can advocate for sexually exploited children and youth from a unique perspective. Forums must be developed for their stories to be heard and to effect both change and public attitudes. Youth, governments, corporations and communities must undertake hosting and funding of other international forums and summits to address this issue.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

We have a right to resources that are directed towards sexually exploited children and youth and our very diverse needs.

> *"Suicide lines don't know how to deal with the issues we deal with. They can't cope with our reality."*
>
> *"The prostitutes in my country are very young and have no place to sleep. They sleep on the streets and this is when the men take advantage of them and rape them."*

Recommendations

Prevention:
Mentoring programs must be established for potentially vulnerable children and youth. Information about resources where sexually exploited children and youth can find assistance and support needs to be accessible.

Harm Reduction:
Safe and adequate housing must be available for sexually exploited children and youth, where there is proper support in terms of health and emotional well-being and practical support including life skills, educational and vocational training.

Crisis Situation:
All governments must take responsibility in establishing 24 hour help lines working in conjunction with crisis intervention services and outreach teams.

Healing and Connecting:
The healing process involves finding the source of the problem. This takes time and long term consistent support from caring individuals including counselors and experiential peer supports. Safe environments need to be created where this can take place.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes:
We want the right and the means to report people who abuse us. Governments and officials must commit to the issue of sexually exploited children and youth and provide funding and support for front-line workers and advocates.

GENDER ISSUES

As children and youth, we are all vulnerable to sexual exploitation whether male, female, or transgendered.

> *"I am turned away by prostitute agencies, I am turned away by the gay community, I am turned away by my friends and family because I am not only selling my body, but I am a guy and selling my body to guys. It's not fair."*
>
> *"It is just as scary to think of young boys being equally vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation."*

Recommendations

Prevention:
Sexually exploited children and youth must have the opportunity to access resources regarding sexuality and sexual abuse. Educational programs must be developed to be implemented in schools, churches, social services, and other community centers.

Harm Reduction:
Community and government action must be taken to support safer sex education as well as more effective policing of areas where male and transgender sexual exploitation takes place.

Crisis Situation:
Sensitivity training for police, service providers, crisis phone line operators and other professionals regarding the sexual exploitation of children and youth, whether male, female or transgendered, must be developed and implemented.

Healing and Connecting:
There is a need for governments and communities to support the development of peer-led support groups that focus on sexuality issues, exploitation issues and gender issues for young men. There is also a need to support us in identifying gay and transgendered adult role models or mentors in order to help in the development of healthy visions and views of the gay and transgendered community.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes:
There is a need to recognize that not all males or youth who are exploited are gay or bisexual and to ensure that there is a voice for straight children and youth who are sexually exploited.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Our laws must protect us as sexually exploited children and youth and no longer punish us as criminals.

> *"It shouldn't be O.K. to beat us up just because we are prostitutes."*
>
> *"For the children, we have to ask for harsher punishment of the pimps, bad dates and others who hurt us."*

Recommendations

Prevention:
Children or youth who are at high risk for sexual exploitation must be identified by those with authority and ability to intervene. Networking systems between service care providers must be utilized in order to prevent children "slipping between the cracks".

Harm Reduction:
Legislation must be passed for the prosecution of all those who buy, sell, facilitate or profit from the sexual exploitation of children and youth, whether directly or indirectly.

Crisis Situations:
Prosecution of exploiters must not be dependent only on the testimony of the abused child or youth. The legislative process must protect the child and youth from further exploitation and trauma.

Healing and Connecting:
Decriminalization of children and youth who have been exploited sexually is crucial to both the recovery process and their ability to connect, or reconnect, to society.

Advocacy and Public Attitudes:

- Laws should reflect the belief that the sexual exploitation of children and youth is abuse. Governments must take on the responsibility of ensuring that sexually exploited children and youth are not prosecuted, but rather protected.
- Severe penalties must be imposed on **all** those profiting from the sexual exploitation of children and youth so that exploitation is no longer profitable. Penalties must include seizure of assets and monitoring of all financial activities. All moneys from such penalties should then be directed towards victims of these crimes.

ACCOUNTABILITY

You will notice the difference in structure for Accountability. A delegate from South America wrote the following piece based on our belief that :

We are all responsible for our children and youth, yet the issue is not ours alone. Governments, communities and society as a whole must be held accountable for the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

The different model represents how diverse the issue of the sexual exploitation of children and youth is. No one answer will solve this global problem as it needs to be worked on by not only the global community, but national and local communities as well. It represents how we all have a part to play in working towards the solutions.

Below you will find a very descriptive and unique approach to the recommendations. Please listen to the youth of the world, our voices are our path to prevention, reducing harm, dealing with crisis situations, healing, and advocating for ourselves.

> *"Child and youth prostitution is a reflection of the disease in society's soul."*
>
> *"Many of us disappear without a trace. No one knows what happens to us when we die."*
>
> *"A child is murdered and no one cares because she is a prostitute. Society's hands are just as bloody as the guy who did it."*

Recommendations

The Responsibilities of Our Governments:

"Our governments must find ways to stop the countries of the world from banning the import of artisan products. By doing so this would lessen the poverty and the sexual exploitation of children and youth. Our governments must insist that the police be less violent towards sex workers and sexually exploited children. They must help us and believe in us.

There should be politicians who advocate on our behalf. People who understand that we are as worthy as everyone else.

Also that there be social support for our families.

The wealthy must not judge us just because they have a lot. They must not let happen what is happening to us.

And I wish that for one minute – for just one minute – that they would put themselves in our place so they could understand and realize that we are people.

That they think of helping and not judging.

Society is the reason that children and youth are in the streets. It is why we are sex workers or children of the streets. It discriminates against us. Instead of helping, it pushes us further into sexual exploitation."

Specific to the levels of government, recommendations are:

- **Local Community:**
  Communities must develop a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary action plan implementing this Declaration and Agenda. Sexually exploited children and youth must be included in both the development and implementation of all efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.
- **National:**
  Governments must be obligated to provide bi-annual reports detailing their progress and efforts to address and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth.
- **Global Communities:**
  An international multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted monitoring committee must be structured which includes visible participation of sexually exploited children and youth.

Appendix 2: Final Program

Appendix 2 contains the *Final Program*, this version of which was printed just prior to the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. In keeping with the guiding principle of Listening to the Voice of the Youth, the program was finalized with the realization that to maintain flexibility, it might be changed at any time to provide the youth with a better forum for creating and making their declarations. In fact, the Program was modified, mainly around the structure of Forum 2 *Voices From the Shadows* and the timing of the various workshops and plenary sessions throughout the Summit.

SUMMIT PROGRAM

Forum 1

Finding Voice

Friday, March 6, 1998

Arrival of delegates	
6:00 – 7:30 pm (1800 – 1930 hrs)	**Dinner,** Lookout Room # 1207
Ongoing:	**Hospitality Room**, Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day Office, Room #1214 Safe Room, Room #315

Saturday, March 7, 1998

Theme: WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

Arrival of delegates	
1:30 – 3 pm (1330 –1500 hrs)	**Committee Planning Meeting** - Pacific Room # 1214
3:00 – 4 pm (1500 – 1600 hrs)	**Volunteer pre-Summit briefing** - Pacific Room # 1214
4:00 – 6 pm (1600 hrs – 1800 hrs)	**Registration**/check in - Mezzanine
6:00 – 7:30 pm (1800 – 1930 hrs)	**Welcome Dinner** - Salon B
7:30 – 8:30 pm (1930 – 2030 hrs)	Orientation on Canada and Purpose of Summit – Salon A
Ongoing:	**Hospitality Room** - Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day Office - Room #1214 Safe Room - Room #315

DAY 1

Sunday, March 8, 1998

(International Women's Day)

Forum 1: FINDING VOICE

Morning Theme: SUMMIT OVERVIEW

7:30 - 9:00 am (0730 – 0900 hrs)	**Breakfast** – Salon B **Orientation** - Salon A (repeated for late arrivals)
8:30 am (0800 hrs)	**Media Orientation**, Room #1214
9:00 - 10:00 am (0900 – 1000 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Blessing and Opening Remarks by the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth) on behalf of the Government of Canada Opening Address by Summit Co-Chairs, Senator Landon Pearson and Cherry Kingsley
10:00 -10:30 am (1000 – 1030 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine
10:30 - 12 noon (1030 – 1200 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Review of translation services and procedures Confidentiality guidelines and agreements Expectations of delegates Expectations of non-experiential participants Overview of themes for the week Overview of breakout group sessions, including choice of media for discussion and presentation (verbal, written, visual arts, music, theatre) Overview of delegate team presentations on Days 4 and 5
12:00-1:30 pm (1200 – 1330 hrs)	**Lunch** – Salon B

Afternoon Theme: PREVENTION

1:30 – 2:30 pm (1330 – 1430 hrs)	**Plenary**: Theme Introduction – Salon A
2:30 – 4:00 pm (1430 – 1600 hrs)	**Delegate Teams** focus on theme of day **Team #1** - Drafting recommendations for Youth Declaration & Agenda for Action – Salon A **Team #2** – Theatre – Lookout Room #1207 **Team #3** - Music – Esquimalt Room #415 **Team #4** - Visual Arts – Room #1210 **Team #5** - Written communication: stories, poetry, newsletters, etc. – Pacific Room #1214
3:30 pm (1530 hrs)	**Refreshment Breaks** - Mezzanine
4:00 - 4:30 pm (1600-1630 hrs)	**Plenary**: All Delegates Meeting: Summary Report from each Delegate Team – Salon A
6:30 pm (1830 hrs)	**Dinner** – Salon B
Ongoing:	**Hospitality Room**, Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day **Office** - Room #1214 **Safe Room** - Room #315

DAY 2

Monday, March 9, 1998

Forum 1: FINDING VOICE

Theme: RISK MANAGEMENT AND HARM REDUCTION
EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS, SAFETY ISSUES

7:30 - 9:00 am (0730 – 0900 hrs)	**Breakfast** – Salon B
9:00 - 10:00 am (0900-1000 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Discussion of yesterday's events Overview of the day
10:00 - 10:30 am (1000 – 1030 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine
10:30 - 12:00 noon (1030 – 1200 hrs)	**Plenary** discussion – Salon A Risk Management and Harm Reduction Emergency and Crisis Situations, Safety Issues
12 noon - 1:30 pm (1200 – 1330 hrs)	**Lunch** – Salon B
1:30 – 4:00 pm (1330 – 1600 hrs)	**Delegate Teams** focus on theme of day **Team #1** - Drafting recommendations for Youth Declaration & Agenda for Action – Salon A **Team #2** – Theatre – Lookout Room #1207 **Team #3** - Music – Esquimalt Room #415 **Team #4** - Visual Arts – Room #1210 **Team #5** - Written communication: stories, poetry, newsletters, etc. – Pacific Room #1214
3:30 pm (1530 hrs)	**Refreshment Breaks** - Mezzanine
4:00 - 4:30 pm (1600-1630 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Summary Report from each Delegate Team
6:30 pm (1830 hrs)	**Dinner** – Salon B
8:00 pm (2000 hrs)	**Special Activity**: Dance – Salon B
Ongoing:	**Hospitality Room** - Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day **Office** - Room #1214 **Safe Room** - Room #315

DAY 3

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Forum 1: FINDING VOICE

Theme: **HEALING AND CONNECTING**
ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES

7:30 - 9:00 am (0700 – 0900 hrs)	**Breakfast** – Salon B
9:00 - 10:00 am (0900-1000 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Discussion of yesterday's events Overview of the day
10:00 - 10:30 am (1000 – 1030 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine
10:30 - 12:00 noon (1030-1200 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Healing and Connecting Advocacy And Public Attitudes
12 noon - 1:30 pm (1200-1330 hrs)	**Lunch** – Salon B
1:30 – 4:00 pm (1330 – 1600 hrs)	**Delegate Teams** focus on theme of day **Team #1** - Drafting recommendations for Youth Declaration & Agenda for Action – Salon A **Team #2** – Theatre – Lookout Room #1207 **Team #3** - Music – Esquimalt Room #415 **Team #4** - Visual Arts – Room # 1210 **Team #5** - Written communication: stories, poetry, newsletters, etc. – Pacific Room #1214
3:30 pm (1530 hrs)	**Refreshment Breaks** - Mezzanine
4:00 - 4:30 pm (1600-1630 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Summary Report from each Delegate Team
4:30 - 5:30 pm (1630-1730 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Review of Forums on Days 4 and 5 Delegate teams decision: Which members of your team will take part in other forums (outside hotel) on days 4 and 5?

6:30 pm (1830 hrs)	**Dinner** – Salon B
7:00 – 10:00 pm (1900-2200 hrs)	**Merging Voices: The Community Forum** *Ocean Pointe Resort Reception*
8:00 pm (2000 hrs)	**Special Activity** – Salon A Rehearsal of Summit and Community Forums presentations
Ongoing:	**Hospitality Room** - Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day **Office** - Room #1214 **Safe Room** - Room #315

DAY 4

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Day One of Forum 2: VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS

Theme: **COMMUNICATING THE YOUTH DECLARATION AND AGENDA FOR ACTION**

7:30 - 9:00 am (0700-0900hrs)	**Breakfast** – Salon B
9:00 - 10:00 am (0900-1000 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A All Delegates and Invited Guests Plenary Opening Address by Conference Co-Chairs, Senator Landon Pearson and Cherry Kingsley Overview of Summit Forum structure and activities
10:00 - 10:30 am (1000-1030 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine (travel time for delegates attending MERGING VOICES : The Community Forum at City Hall)
10:30 – 4:30 pm (1030-1630 hrs)	**MERGING VOICES** : The Community Forum – City Hall
10:30 - 12:00 noon (1030-1200 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Youth presentation of "*Youth Declarations*" to the Honourable Hedy Fry, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) on behalf of the Government of Canada.
12:00 - 1:30 pm (1200-1330 hrs)	**Lunch** – Salon B
2:30 – 4:00 pm (1430 – 1600 hrs)	**Summit Forum Workshops** Prevention – Salon A Risk Management and Harm Reduction –Rm #1207 Emergency and Crisis Situations, Safety Issues – Rm # 1214 Healing and Connecting – Rm #315 Advocacy and Public Attitudes – Rm #415
3:30 pm (1530 hrs)	**Refreshment Breaks** - Mezzanine
4:00 - 5:00 pm (1600-1700 hrs)	**Summit Forum Plenary** – Salon A Brief reports from each workshop Questions and Answers

5:30 – 6:30 pm (1730-1830 hrs)	**Dinner** – Salon B and Lookout Room 1207
7:00- 9:00 pm (1900-2100 hrs)	INTO THE LIGHT : The Public Forum 4 – VCC Theatre, music, art & drama presentations in conjunction with youth delegates' presentation of *Youth Declaration and Agenda for Action*
Ongoing:	Hospitality Room - Room #1209 Informal communication team meetings, written summary of the day Office - Room #1214 Safe Room -Room #315

DAY 5

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Day Two of Forum 2: VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS

Theme: **COMMUNICATING THE YOUTH DECLARATION AND AGENDA FOR ACTION**

7:30 - 9:00 am (0730-0900 hrs)	**Breakfast** – Salon B
9:00 - 10:00 am (0900-1000 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Agenda for Action
10:00 – 12 noon (1000-1200 hrs)	**BUILDING BRIDGES** youth briefing – Room # 1207
10:00 - 10:30 am (1000-1030 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine (and travel time for delegates attending Community Forum)
10:30 – 4:30 pm (1030-1630 hrs)	**MERGING VOICES** : The Community Forum 3– City Hall
10:30 am - 12:00 pm (1030 – 1200 hrs)	**Summit Forum Workshops** Strategy Planning Sessions Prevention – Salon A Risk Management and Harm Reduction –*Rm #1210* Emergency and Crisis Situations, Safety Issues – Rm # 1214 Healing and Connecting – Rm #315 Advocacy and Public Attitudes – Rm #415
12:00 -1:30 pm (1200-1330 hrs)	Lunch – Salon B
12 noon – 3:00 pm (1200 – 1500 hrs)	**BUILDING BRIDGES :** **The Elected Representatives Forum** - Room #1207
1:30 - 3:00 pm (1330-1500 hrs)	**Summit Forum Workshops** Strategy Planning Sessions Prevention – Salon A Risk Management and Harm Reduction –Rm #1210 Emergency and Crisis Situations, Safety Issues – Rm # 1214 Healing and Connecting – Rm #315 Advocacy and Public Attitudes – Rm #415
3:00 - 3:30 pm (1500-1530 hrs)	**Break** - Mezzanine

3:10 pm (1510 hrs)	**Media Conference** – Salon B
3:30 – 4:30 pm (1530-1630 hrs)	**Plenary** – Salon A Workshop Strategies for Action What will you do? What can we do? How do we ensure this happens? How do we maintain bridges?
4:30 – 5:30 pm (1630-1730 hrs)	**Closing Plenary** – Salon A Where Do We Go From Here?
5:30 – 6:00 pm (1730-1800 hrs)	**Media Briefing Session** – Lookout Room #1207
6:30 – 8:00 pm (1830-2000 hrs)	**Closing Ceremony and Banquet** – Salon B

Appendix 3: Attendees at Forum 5 Building Bridges: The Elected Representatives Forum

The following delegates attended Forum 5, *Building Bridges*: The Elected Representatives Forum. *Building Bridges* was an in-camera session where the experiential delegate team that developed the *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* presented the written declaration to elected officials from all levels of Canadian government and to representatives of international agencies.

If you wish to contact a non-experiential delegate for whom contact information is not provided, call the Unit for Research and Education on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (URECRC), University of Victoria (please see Appendix 6, Key Contacts for Project Information).

Representative	Title	Organization	Telephone Number
Ms. Lucie Angers	Counsel for Justice Canada, attending for Deputy Minister George Thomson	Justice Canada	(613) 957-4750
Ms. Eleni Bakopanous	Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice	Government of Canada	
Ms. Jacquie Bobenic	Attending with Joan Smallwood, NDP Caucus Chair		
Ms. Mary Rose Boyer	Senior Program Consultant	Social Services, Province of Saskatchewan	(306) 787-3610
Ms. Eleanor Brockington	Attending for Deputy Minister Tannis Mindell,	Ministry of Children and Youth, Government of Canada	
Ms. Rona Brown	Attending for Honourable Mildred Dover	Department of Health and Social Services, Province of Prince Edward Island	
Honourable Lorne Calvert	Minister, Ministry of Social Services	Government of Saskatchewan	(306) 787-3661
Mr. Mike Corbeil	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Children and Families, Government of British Columbia	(250) 952-1564
Dr. Marlene Dalley	Policing and Law Enforcement	Solicitor General	(613) 990-2710
Ms. Adele Dion	Deputy Director, Human Rights and Justice Division	Foreign Affairs and International Trade	(613) 992-2212
Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh	Attorney General	Ministry of Attorney General, Province of British Columbia	(250) 387-1866

Representative	Title	Organization	Telephone Number
Mr. Paul Forseth	Member of Parliament for New Westminister, Coquitlam, Burnaby (B.C.), attending for Honourable Preston Manning, Leader of the Reform Party	Reform Party of Canada	(613) 947-4455
Honourable Hedy Fry	Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women)	Government of Canada	(613) 992-3213
The Honourable Judge Thomas J. Gove	Judge	Provincial Court of B.C.	(604) 660-7147
Mr. Stuart Hart	Director	Office for Study of Psychological Rights of Children	
Mr. Alan Horner	Attending for Scott Thurston, Deputy Minister	Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs, Government of Canada	
Dr. Eric Hoskins	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs	(613) 992-0312
Councillor Helen Hughes	Councillor, Attending for Mayor Bob Cross	City of Victoria	
Ms. Diane Johnston	Assistant Deputy Minister	Children, Youth, and Family Support Division, Ministry for Children and Families, Province of British Columbia	(250) 387-2207
Ms. Judith Karp	Member of the Committee for the Rights of the Child, and Deputy Attorney General, Israel	Ministry of Justice, Israel	972-2-670-8565
Mr. O.M. Kruhlak	Regional Executive Director	Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada	
Ms. Fani Lerner	Minister Children/Family	State of Parana, Brazil	
Mr. Bruce Lund	Policy Analyst	Canadian Heritage (B.C.)	(250) 363-3511
Ms. Alison MacPhail	Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Justice Branch	Minister of Attorney General, British Columbia	(250) 356-1560
Ms. Dulcie McCallum	Ombudsman	Province of British Columbia	

Representative	Title	Organization	Telephone Number
Ms. Maureen Maloney	Deputy Attorney General	Ministry of Attorney General, Province of British Columbia	(250) 387-5211
Mr. Glenn Martin	Attending for Honourable David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Member of Parliament for Victoria	Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada	
Honourable Chief Justice R. Metzger	Chief Justice	Provincial Court of B.C.	
Ms. Adrienne Montoni	Attending for Mayor Phillip Owen, City of Vancouver	City of Vancouver	
Ms. Janice Nelson	Attending for the Honourable W. Gardiner	Human Resources Development Canada	
Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg	Minister	Ministry of Family and Social Services, Government of Alberta	(403) 427-2606
Joao Elias de Oliveira	Ouvidor Geral do Estado de Parana	State of Parana, Brazil	
Mr. Stephen Owen			
Mr. Brent Parfitt	Deputy Ombudsman	Office of the Ombudsman, Province of British Columbia	(250) 381-5855
Honourable Landon Pearson	Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Co-Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth	Senate of Canada	(613) 947-7134
Mr. Ernie Quantz	Assistant Deputy Attorney General	Ministry of Attorney General, Government of British Columbia	
Marisol Sepulveda	Office of the Ombudsman		
Ms. Terry Simmonds	Secretariat for Children and Youth, for the Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson	Ministry of Children and Youth, Government of Canada	
Mrs. Marina Klamas Taniguchi	President	Fundaçã de Ação Social (Foundation for Social Action), Brasil	
Mr. Richard Taylor	Union of BC Municipalities		

Appendix 4: Non-experiential Delegates to Forum 2, Voices From the Shadows: The Summit Forum Workshops

The following delegates attended Forum 2 *Voices From the Shadows*: The Summit Workshops, on days 4 and 5 of the International Summit for Sexually Exploited Youth. These delegates were considered non-experiential to differentiate them from the experiential youth also in attendance at the workshops. After the youth presented the declarations at the beginning plenary session of Forum 2, the delegates broke out into five different workshop groups to work with the experiential delegates in creating visions and action plans based on the declarations.

If you wish to contact a non-experiential delegate for whom contact information is not provided, call the Unit for Research and Education on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (URECRC), University of Victoria (please see Appendix 6, Key Contacts for Project Information).

Representative	Title	Organization	Contact Numbers
Ms. Amihan Abueva	ECPAT-IYPPP	Philippines	Tel: (632) 433-5527
Mr. Gerry Adams	Urban Native Youth Association	Friendship Centre	
Ms. Lucie Angers	Counsel	Department of Justice, Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 957-4750
Ms. Catherine Auger	Consultative Analyst	Health Canada	Tel: (613) 941-3321
Ms. Mary Rose Boyer	attending for Honourable Lorne Calvert	Social Services Saskatchewan	Tel: (306) 787-3610
Ms. Rona Brown	Attending for Minister M. Dover and Deputy Minister Carol Anne Duffy	Province of Prince Edward Island	
Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos,	Officer/High Commission, Human Rights	United Nations	Tel: (41) 22 917 1530 Email: jphilpot-hchr@unag.ch
Ms. Christine Campbell		CIDA	Tel: (819) 994-4137
Ms. Susan Christie	Director, Policy, Planning and Legislation	Ministry of Attorney General, Province of British Columbia	Tel: (250) 356-9666 Email: susan.christie@ag.gov.bc.ca
Mr. Sandy Cooke		Covenant House	Tel: (604) 685-7474
Mr. Peter Copping	Executive Director	Street Kids International, Toronto	Tel: (416) 504-8994 Email: copping@streetkids.org
Mr. Mike Corbeil	Deputy Minister	Ministry for Children and Families, Province of B.C.	Tel: (250) 952-1564 Email: mike.corbeil@moh.hnet.bc.ca

Representative	Title	Organization	Contact Numbers
Dr. Marlene Dalley	Solicitor General	Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 990-2710
Ms. Nancy Dickson	Chair	UNICEF, British Columbia	Tel: (604) 266-4496
Mr. Ken Doern	Inspector	City of Vancouver Police Department	Tel: (604) 665-3391
Mr. Nicholas Drever	Attending for Mr. David Morely	Pueblito Canada	Tel: (416) 963-8846 Email: pueblito@web.net
Mr. Enrico Esquerra	Director	ECPAT-IYPPP	Tel: (416) 323-9726
Mr. Chris Finding	Manager Investigation/Mediation	BC Human Rights	Tel: (604) 660-0634 Email: chris.finding@gov.bc.ca
The Honourable Judge Thomas J. Gove	Judge	Provincial Court of British Columbia	Tel: (604) 660-7147
Ms. Frances Grunberg	Social Worker/Consultant	Society for Children and Youth of British Columbia	Tel: (604) 261-5937 Email: qustau@cutterbits.com
Ms. Terri Hammerback	Senior Advocacy	Office of the Children's Advocate	Tel: (204) 945-5721
Ms. Pauline Hedman	Consultant	ECPAT-IYPPP	Tel: (416) 538-6524
Dr. Eric Hoskins	Senior Policy Advisor	Human Rights and Peace Building, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs	Tel: (613) 992-0312
Ms. Diane Johnston	Assistant Deputy Minister	Children, Youth, and Family Support Division, Ministry for Children and Families, Province of British Columbia	Tel: (250) 387-2207
Judith Karp	Member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child, and Deputy Attorney General	Ministry of Justice, Israel	Tel: 972-2-670-8565
Ms. Anne Kimmitt	Acting Team Leader	Ministry for Children and Families, British Columbia	Tel: (250) 387-9856 Email: akimmitt@ssrv.gov.bc.ca
Ms. Terry Langner	Co-Chair, Child Committee	Regina Crime Prevention Commission	Tel: (306) 777-7990

Representative	Title	Organization	Contact Numbers
Mr. Bertil Lindblad	Chief, Child Protection Section	UNICEF, New York	Tel: (212) 824-6633
Mr. Leith W. McKay	Vice Chair	Regina Crime Prevention Commission	Tel: (306) 789-8780
Ms. Alison MacPhail	Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Justice Branch	Minister of Attorney General, British Columbia	Tel: (250) 356-1560 Email: amacphail@ag.gov.bc.ca
Dr. Carol Matusicky	Consultant	British Columbia Council for Families	Tel: (604) 660-0675
Ms. Cynthia Morton	Children's Commissioner	Children's Commission, British Columbia	Tel: (250) 356-0831
Dr. Jacquelyn Nelson	Senior Policy Analyst	Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch, Ministry of the Attorney General	Tel: (250) 387-5004 Email: jacquelyn.nelson@ag.gov.bc.ca
Sergeant John Oliver		Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Missing Children's Program	Tel: (613) 993-1525 Email: mcr.nps@sympatico.ca
Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen	Children's Advocate	Province of Saskatchewan	Tel: (306) 933-6700
Dr. Shaun Peck	Deputy Provincial Health Officer	Ministry of Health, Province of British Columbia	Tel: (250) 952-0917
Mr. Gordon Phaneuf	Chief, Child Maltreatment Division	Health Canada, Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 954-5493 Email: Gordon-Phaneuf@hc-sc.gc.ca
Ms. Jennifer Philpot		Office/High Commission Human Rights	Tel: (41) 22 917 1530 Email: jphilpot-hchr@unag.ch
Ms. Tracy Porteous	Coordinating Consultant	British Columbia Association of Victims Services	Tel: (250) 995-2166 Email: porteous@islandnet,come
Ms. Joyce Preston	Child, Youth, and Family Advocate	Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate, British Columbia	Tel: (604) 775-3203 Email: jprest@Zeus.gs.gov.bc.ca

Representative	Title	Organization	Contact Numbers
Ms. Jeanine Ratcliffe	Manager, Special Needs Housing	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of British Columbia	Tel: (250) 387-7034 Email: jratclif@nq.marh.gov.bc.ca
Ms. Maricarmen Raudales	Programme Director	Internal Bureau for Children's Rights	Tel: (514) 932-7656
Mr. Graham Robinson	Coordinator Victim Services,	RCMP	Tel: (613) 993-8439
Ms. Helene Sackstein	Coordinator	Focal Point	Tel: (4112) 734-0568
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Ms. Eileen Skinnider	Legal Researcher Reform and Criminal Justice Policy		Tel: (604) 822-9873 Email: skinnider@law.abc.ca
Ms. Marthe St. Louis	Policy Analyst	Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 943-8496
Ms. Carole Theberge	Counsel	Department of Justice, Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 957-9606
Ms. Paddy Torsney	Member of Parliament for Burlington, Canada	Government of Canada	Tel: (613) 995-0881
Ms. Diane Trahan	Program Manager	Africa Save the Children	
Mr. Paul Vieira	Program Manager	Save the Children, Vancouver	Tel: (604) 437-5881 Email: stcc-bc@direct.ca
Mrs. Darcylia Viera dos Santos	Secretary of Child	Curitiba	
Ms. Marilyn Young	Senior Intelligence Officer	Revenue Canada	Tel: (613) 954-7584 Email: young@infoshare.ca

Appendix 5: Summit Project Staff

Planning Committee

Cherry Kingsley, Co-Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, Prostitute Empowerment and Education Resource Society (PEERS)

The Honourable Landon Pearson, Co-Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sandra Griffin, Planning Committee Chair, Greater Victoria School District

Laura Action, PEERS
Laura Bramly, Synergy Communications, BC
Mollie Butler, Public Health Association of BC
Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Unit for Research and Education on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (URECRC), School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria
Philip Cook, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria
Liza Goulet, Researcher and Policy Analyst to the Honourable Landon Pearson
The Honourable Judge J. Gove, Provincial Court Judge, BC
Lynette Halldorson Jackson, Global Connect Services, BC
Helen Hughes, Councillor, City of Victoria
Chrystal Kleiman, MD
Rachel Levine, Community Forum Youth Co-Chair
Megan Lewis, PEERS
Walter Lidster, Ministry of Attorney General, BC
Bruce Lund, Western Region, Canadian Heritage
Sophie Mas, Ministry of Attorney General, BC
Mary O'Rourke, Conference Management, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria
Brent Parfitt, Office of the Ombudsman of BC
Jody Paterson, Victoria Times-Colonist
Jannit Rabinovitch, PEERS
Jacqueline Ramdatt, School of Social Work, University of Victoria
Lex Reynolds, Society for Children & Youth
Sandra Scarth, Child Welfare League of Canada
Gwen Smith, PEERS
Tathra Street, PEERS
Margot Tubman, Gordium Associates (Canada) Inc., BC

Support Staff

Yolande Arsenault, Administrative Assistant to the Honourable Landon Pearson

Victoria Emery, Conference Management, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria

Community Forum Planning Committee

Maria Agius-Aasen, Ministry for Children and Families, Nanaimo

Renata Aebi, Task Force on Juvenile Prostitution, New Westminster

Craig Hjelnestead, Boys and Girls Club, Kelowna

Zahur Karim, Ministry of Attorney General, BC

Glenn Kirkpatrick, Ministry of Attorney General, BC

Councillor Murray Krause, Downtown Service Providers, Prince George

Sherri Lee, Ministry of Attorney General, BC

Walter Lidster, Ministry of Attorney General

Sophie Mas, Ministry of Attorney General

Megan Stuart-Stubbs, Contractor

Volunteers

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their tireless efforts without which the Summit would not have happened:

Dan Allman
Tim Bailey
Natasha Blanchet-Cohen
Dr. Betty Kleiman
Edward Lentrz
Rachel Levine
Romina Miranda
Stephanie Ogden
Danyel Price
Hildegard Thompson

Thank you to the many other volunteers that gave their time prior to and during the Summit:

Volunteers: Facilitators

Dan Allman
Garthe Buffe
Jane Crickmore
Peter Hodgson
Ann Little
Megan Lewis
Kathy Loewen
Gord Miller
Grace Steer
Robin Swets

Volunteers: Resource People

Marny Bradfield
Elizabeth Brown
Lisa Bernstein
Megh Blackburn
Donna Grosseth
Caryl Harper
Sharen Johnson
Sair Killy
Edward Lentz
Kathy Linker
Jose Marcil
Romina Miranda
Val Moir
Tracey Pander
Linda Rogers
Alisa Rothman
Lihn Trihn
Diana Urlacher
Patricia Young

Volunteers: Hospitality

Paul Carr
Bev Horsman
Chris Jones
Pam Messerli
Sheralynn Pearce
Christine Peterson
Danyel Price
MaryLynn Reimer
Joi Saunder
Torri Seale
Maria Stefanyk
Grace Steer
Stephanie Tatro
Hildegarde Thompson
Brandy Wolfden

Volunteers: Support Room

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Kim Caldwell
Ann Clayton
Katrina Clutesi
Sandrine Definney
Kim Garnett
Sarala Godine
Kim Heins
Sue Livingstone
Kevin Loosyen
Sarahila Malo
Dallas McKay
Daisy Mutanda
Susan Nelson
Stephanie Ogden
Naomie Penner
Maggie Raede
Susan Russle
Carolyn Showler
Catherine Snowden
Anna Stien
Bree Stutt
Louise the Street Nurse
Mutang Urud
Pieta VanDyke
Rebecca Vines
Sue Ward
Shelley Weingart

Volunteers: Recorders

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Jen Chapple
Carol Chavigny
Helen Durie
Jenn Errico
Kyla Hubbard
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Crystal Kleman
Judy Lightwater
Janis Ringuette
Deb Rutman
Mary Shales
Carolyn Showler
Nikki Tate-Straton
Natalie VandenBerg
Aimee Zweig

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Katrink Davidson
Kristen Reid
Lisa Sutherland

Volunteers: Translation

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Natasha Blanchet-Cohen
Monica Diaz
Elena Hansen
Susanne Hodges
Marlene Jones
Thalita Marinho
Vilner Mendoza
Kim Nixon
Jose Palacios
Amy Smith
Beatrice Van Winden

Volunteers: Logistical Support

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Terry Harrison
Veronica Jacallen
Katrina Jensen
Vicky Probert
Hannah Rabinovitch
Ruth Steward
Rosemary Tomasic

Volunteers: Transportation

Laurice Mock

Volunteers: Art Room

Lisa Bernstein
Robin Feldman
Sair Killy
Kathy Likner
Jose Marcil
Dianna Ulracher

Contributing Businesses and Individuals

AIDS Vancouver Island
Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie of Victoria
Ms. Anne Boldt and Dr. Patrick Slobodian
Boys and Girls Club of Victoria
Canadians Against the Commercial Seal Hunt
City of Victoria
elle-a-mental (the band)
Friends (Quaker) Meeting House
Harbour Towers Hotel
John O. Butler Company
League of Canadian Poets
L-News
Maxwell Baha'i Youth Dance Workshop
James Bay Pacific Coast Savings Credit Union
Puente Theatre
Roxy Theatre and Howie Seigel
South Vancouver Island Family Planning Association
Swift Street Clinic
Tourism Victoria
Victoria Conservatory of Music
Victoria High School Rhythm and Blues Band
Women in Need Society
Bayer Inc. (Agfa Division)
Body Shop, Victoria
Bond Bond's Bakery
British Columbia School of Art Therapy
Dr. Joan Chen, Inc., DMD
Downtown Photo Centre
Fiona McKean Flowers
Aaron Gordon B.A. L.L.B.
Dr. Frank Jagdis
Dr. Betty Kleiman
Louise the Street Nurse
Long and McQuade Musical Instruments
Maxwell International Baha'i School
Prism Finishing
Royal British Columbia Museum
Salvation Army Recycling Centre
Street Out Services – Needle Exchange Program
Ernest and Irene Taylor
United Nations Association of Canada (Victoria Branch)
Victoria Eaton's
Victoria Times Colonist

Appendix 6: Key Contacts for Project Information

Key Contacts List

Honourable Landon Pearson	Co-Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth Senator, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Cherry Kingsley	Co-Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth Prostitute Empowerment and Education Resource Society (PEERS)
Jannit Rabinovitch	Project Manager, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth Prostitute Empowerment and Education Resource Society (PEERS)
Sandra Griffin	Planning Committee Chair, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth Greater Victoria School District
Brent Parfitt	Planning Committee Member, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth Deputy Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman, Province of British Columbia
Dr. Philip Cook	Planning Committee Member, International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, School of Child and Youth Care

Please direct inquiries to:

Save the Children - Canada 1-800-325-6873

Save the Children
Canada

Senator Landon Pearson can be contacted directly at:

The Senate of Canada
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Ottawa, ONT K1A 0A4

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Fax: (613) 947-7136
Email: pearsl@sen.parl.gc.ca

The following information is available on Senator Landon Pearson's web site in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese:

sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/

- Extensive background information about the OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: Sexually Exploited Youth Project
- The Final Program of the OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth
- The written *Declaration and Agenda for Action of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* from the OUT FROM THE SHADOWS: International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth.

Save the Children
Canada

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Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Dear Friends,

After the long wait, I am happy to send you the final report of Out From The Shadows: International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth. Many things have happened since the summit.

The summit's Declaration and Agenda for action became **Out Form the Shadows And Into the Light, First National Initiative to prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Canadian Children and Youth.**

Using a community development approach and beginning with the youth themselves the project will work with communities to develop "made in Canada" strategies. The project is designed to raise awareness of the issue across the country, change public attitudes, and increase the sensitivity of people who work with youth, provide direct assistance to agencies, and ultimately decrease the market for sex with children. Project plans include a national workshops series, the creation of a national network of sexually exploited youth and the development of a long-term strategic plan as well as the creation and distribution of a wide range of informational materials on the issue.

Save the Children – Canada, runs the project. SCC has spent 80 years working for the rights of children. We work to battle abuse and exploitation of boys and girls worldwide. Save the Children Alliance has a successful record in helping children exit from the sex trade in many countries around the world. We now find it necessary to bring this expertise to Canada and help our children at home.

The project started officially on May third. Since then, we have been busy developing the youth network, video and manuals, Curriculum as well as research and public education.

So I leave the document in your hand, read it and use it to promote the voices of Canadian Youth. We also have the declaration in poster form as well as a video and video guide about consulting with you t and community mobilization as well as the detailed Declaration and Agenda for action booklet. Please contact me if you wish to obtain a copy.

Yours truly,

Fâdi Fadel
Canadian Program Officer

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